

Submitter: Diane Chavez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

I support closing the regulatory loopholes for medical waste incineration in Oregon. We need to do everthing possible protect our air, water and soils for future generations.

Communities living in the shadow of the tall smokestack of the Covanta Marion incinerator have asked the State Legislature and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to strengthen air toxics emission standards for this facility. Covanta Marion is the 4th largest incinerator in the nation that still burns untreated medical waste. Covanta brings in more than 50% of the medical waste it burns from out-of-state. The combustion of this waste is responsible for dangerous emissions of dioxin, lead, mercury, cadmium, dozens of volatile organic compounds, climate-driving gasses, and more. However, the Oregon DEQ regulates the incinerator under very weak rules. Senate Bill 488 will require the DEQ to adopt more health protective federal air pollution standards for incinerators that burn a large amount of medical waste.

Please support this bill and Oregon's future.