

Submitter: Evan Shenkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

I write to support the passage of SB 488.

SB 488 is a necessary bill for closing an existing emissions loophole and allowing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to protect our state against toxic emissions from the Covanta Marion incinerator.

This toxic facility is located right across the street from Willamette Valley Christian School, just north of Lake Labish Elementary School, and near communities where people live and work. The facility burns untreated out-of-state medical waste in some of the largest quantities in the entire nation and endangers the lives and long term health of our community, and particularly the children going to schools close by this toxic facility.

The State of Oregon leads the nation in many great ways. But as the 4th largest incinerator of untreated medical waste in the nation, Covanta Marion, is an outdated and toxic facility that is being allowed to pollute in far greater quantities than newer waste incinerators.

This plant must not be allowed to exceed current US EPA guidelines. SB 488 is the sensible solution to addressing this ongoing toxic liability that threatens the health of Oregonians and endangers our air, drinking water, and soil with extremely toxic substances, including heavy metals like mercury and lead. In addition, a wealth of peer-reviewed scientific evidence shows that burning PVC, and other plastics, releases dioxin and other extremely toxic substances into our air, soil and water.

Please join me in supporting SB 488 to avoid more harm to our state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this public comment.

Sincerely,

Evan Shenkin