

- I am a physician writing in support of the Medical Waste Incineration Act, SB 488. I recycle every item possible in my medical practice but some items require incineration.
- The Covanta Marion facility is the 4th largest incinerator in the nation that still burns untreated medical waste and brings in more than 50% of the medical waste it burns from out-of-state.
- Medical waste incineration is more toxic than municipal waste, due to a higher percentage of plastics, many of which contain polyvinyl chlorides (PVCs).
- Incineration causes dangerous emissions of dioxin, lead, mercury, cadmium, dozens of volatile organic compounds, and climate-driving gasses.
- Covanta Marion emits more than 10x more cadmium, 8x more carbon monoxide and 7x more lead than the EPA allows for a large medical waste incinerator.
- The Oregon DEQ regulates the incinerator under very weak rules and needs strengthen air toxics emission standards for the facility for the sake of those living nearby and our environment.
- Senate Bill 488 will require the DEQ to adopt federal guidelines, ensuring greater control technology and lower emissions limits for medical waste incinerators.
- Covanta Marion is currently regulated under emissions standards

for municipal waste incinerators rather than the more stringent standards for large medical waste incinerators.

- Oregon law currently has a large loophole that allows the Covanta incinerator to exceed EPA guidelines for safe emissions levels for new, large medical waste incinerators.
- This regulatory loophole needs to be closed to protect our air quality and public health.
- Oregon's mid-Willamette Valley is a farming community, producing much of the food that we eat, and should not be producing toxic air and water that impacts the quality of that food.
- The mid-Willamette Valley should not be the dumping ground for toxic medical waste from other states and countries either.
- Communities that are impacted by Covanta's dirty air emissions are environmental justice communities in the Northeast Salem and Woodburn areas. Communities of color have stood up to protest pollution from incineration as one of the movement's original environmental justice issues.
- Oregon does not require hospitals to incinerate medical waste. Covanta will still be able to accept pathological waste (a small percentage of the hospital waste stream) from local hospitals while following the safest air pollution limits.
- Currently, under the Cleaner Air Oregon program, delays in the DEQ permit and review process along with Covanta's requests for extensions have allowed Covanta to avoid adhering to federal standards.