

Submitter: Dale Feik

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

Please close the loophole for medical waste incineration. Incineration that creates toxics - that being styrofoam that is incinerated in Tigard at the Agilyx incinerator facility or the Covanta Marion incinerator in Brooks, Oregon -- needs to have much better controls. 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.

Lisa Arkin is the Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, and Beyond Toxics is a Participant Group organization with Washington County Citizen Action Network; I am chair. She and I have worked to make the DEQ/EQC more responsive to protecting public health from toxic air, land and water emissions. By passing SB 488 you will help us do the public a great service - public health.

Please pass SB 488.

Dale Feik