

March 7, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR, 97301

**RE: SB 488 - SUPPORT**

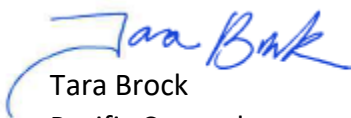
Dear Chair Sollman and members of the committee:

We strongly support stricter regulation of emissions from incinerators in Oregon burning medical waste and urge you to vote for SB 488. Medical waste contains a higher percentage of plastics than municipal waste. Burning plastic releases harmful pollutants and emissions into the environment.

Not only is the smoke from burning plastic filled with climate change-accelerating gasses, but it also contains carcinogens and toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, dioxins and furans, fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and brominated polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHS). Ash and wastewater from burned plastic, containing many of these same pollutants, is often sent to landfills, where it poses the risk of leaking into the soil and water of nearby communities.

Oregon cannot expect to meet its climate goals if it continues to allow inadequate regulation of emissions from incinerators. The health impacts of burning plastic waste cannot be understated, particularly on people that live and work near these facilities. Please support SB 488 and help protect our communities from harmful emissions caused by burning of medical waste.

Sincerely,



Tara Brock  
Pacific Counsel  
Oceana