

Submitter: Krystal Abrams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider the regulatory loophole that Senate Bill 488 aims to close and all the impacted communities surrounding Marion county that have endured highly toxic air pollution for decades. I believe that it is a severe injustice that our mid-Willamette Valley is the dumping ground for so much out of state medical waste. As a result, Oregonians have to breathe more toxic air and are not adequately protected from these toxic emissions. People that are harmed by Covanta's highly toxic air emissions are environmental justice communities in the Northeast Salem and Woodburn areas. These people have stood up to protest pollution from incineration for years and have largely been ignored in decision-making spaces. Now is the time to take action to protect our air quality and public health!

Requiring Covanta to abide by the applicable federal rules on medical waste incineration will not prevent hospitals in Oregon from sending their medical waste to Covanta. The amount of medical waste, especially pathological waste, generated in Oregon is not enough tonnage to trigger the federal rules for a new large medical waste incinerator. But even if it did, Covanta can absolutely accept this waste, while following the safest air pollution limits.

I believe that a good business should spend the time and money that it takes to safely operate within their communities and do their best to protect human and environmental health throughout all of their operations. I fully support Senate Bill 488 and urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to pass this bill now!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

All my best,

Krystal Abrams