

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 1067, which returns authority over solid waste policy and practice to Salem and other cities in Marion County. This authority was taken away in the 1980s to direct all solid waste to the Covanta (now Reworld) incinerator in Brooks. With the closure of the incinerator in December 2024, we no longer need to send all of the solid waste in Marion County to one or more repositories.

Salem has adopted a Climate Action Plan that sets a goal for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To achieve these climate action goals, Salem must be given complete authority over all aspects of solid waste policy and practice, rather than being directed by another unit of local government.

Furthermore, the Reworld incinerator is still operational and could be restarted at any time. Recently a French company, Veolia, took over operations at an incinerator that had been operated by Reworld/Covanta for 25 years in Vancouver, BC. If something similar happened here, Salem could be directed by Marion County to take its solid waste to the incinerator once again.

However, 350 Salem strongly opposes the resumption of solid waste incineration. The Reworld incinerator was consistently among the top 20 greenhouse gas emitters in the State — with nearly 155,000 metric tons of CO₂ emitted in the latest DEQ report for 2022. Closing the incinerator was the equivalent of taking 34,000 cars off the road.

If Salem is to meet its climate action goals and avoid any possibility of having to send its solid waste to once again be burned and to pollute the air with CO₂ and toxins, Salem needs to be given authority once again to determine its own solid waste policies and practices.

I therefore urge your committee to pass SB 1067. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas I. Ellis, Ph.D.

4553 Fir Dell Dr. SE

Salem, OR 97302