



Marion County
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

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Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 22, 2016

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

RE: Marion County Supports HB 4036 A-41 Amendments

Sam Brentano
Janet Carlson
Kevin Cameron

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

The Marion County Board of Commissioners supports HB 4036 A-41 amendments, relating to the renewable portfolio standards (RPS). Currently, we are unable to sell electricity generated by the Marion Waste-to-Energy facility under the RPS until 2026. The A-41 amendments eliminate the 2026 date.

John Lattimer

Energy revenues generated by the Marion Waste-to-Energy facility support our extensive solid waste program which includes waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. The county has a recycling rate of near 60% and is a consistent leader in the state and nationally.

The Marion Waste-to-Energy facility processes waste from the county and is a safe, technologically advanced means of solid waste disposal while also generating clean, renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting recycling through the recovery of metals.

Waste-to-energy actually helps to reduce the net volume of climate-warming greenhouse gases (GHG). This reduction is achieved through the *avoidance* of methane that would be generated from municipal solid waste sent to landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and is 25 times worse for the environment than carbon dioxide. It is estimated that every ton of municipal solid waste processed by a waste-to-energy facility offsets the generation of landfill GHG by one ton, a net one-to-one reduction.

We appreciate your consideration and encourage your support of HB 4036 A-41.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cameron, Chair Sam Brentano, Vice Chair Janet Carlson, Commissioner