

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 11:33 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** SB 451 - testimony in opposition

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the Committee:  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 451.

I am a member of local climate action organization 350 Salem OR. I would like to call your attention to written testimony in opposition to this bill submitted by our Coordinators on behalf of the group and to add my own voice.

Covanta-Marion is the only waste-to energy facility in Oregon. Of facilities reporting greenhouse gas emissions to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in 2017, the most recent available year, it was the 20th largest GHG emitter in the state and the largest in Marion County. Total GHG reported emissions were 160, 844 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/programs/Pages/GHG-Emissions.aspx>

This is not renewable energy. Much of the solid waste burned is plastic which is fossil-fuel based. This component will increase if less plastic is recycled. The part that is categorized as biogenic - slightly more than half in 2017 - is organic material such as paper or food waste. Regenerating these materials takes far longer, decades in the case of wood products, than burning them.

Despite the efforts of Covanta, the incinerator Oregon's energy production is relatively clean and renewable and becoming cleaner and more renewable, making the energy produced from municipal solid waste relatively dirtier over time. Characterizing waste-to-energy incineration as renewable and allowing Renewable Energy Certification puts incineration in competition with truly clean renewable sources.

There are better and more useful ways to manage waste. There are many ways to reduce waste. That is where our efforts should be directed.

SB 451 would be a step backward in Oregon's effort to find the best way to meet the mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to keep moving forward by advancing real clean renewable energy.

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