



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron
Testimony in support of SB 451
May 13, 2019

(503) 588-5212

(503) 588-5237-FAX

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

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For more than 30 years, Marion County and Covanta have been in partnership to provide solid waste management, recovery and recycling services to the more than 350,000 residents of Marion County.

The Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility in Brooks has been a key component of Marion County's overall waste reduction and recycling strategies.

Not only does the Covanta partnership allow Marion County to achieve one of the highest recovery rates in Oregon, but electricity generated from the energy-from-waste facility powers 9,000 homes.

Revenues received from the energy produced at the Marion County facility helps support the county's recycling efforts. In addition to the curbside mixed recycling roll cart, the county maintains value added programs such as the Master Recycler and EarthWISE programs which help residents and businesses implement environmentally friendly practices.

Marion County provides convenient curbside recycling for mixed organics, household batteries, paint, used motor oil, antifreeze, and cooking oil – items which are not being recycled curbside in many other communities.

All of this has been possible because of our partnership with Covanta.

Just a few short years ago, Oregon legislators deemed energy-from-waste a renewable energy, as part of the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

It is critical that the legislature pass SB 451, which is considered a technical fix bill that clarifies that Covanta can sell Renewable Energy Credits it has accrued and future credits.

If this legislation does not pass, there is a very real chance the Covanta / Marion County partnership will end.

What does this mean?

- Higher garbage rates with fewer recycling options for county businesses and residents, although we will work hard to soften the financial impact to our residents.
- No close location where county medical waste from our local hospitals and clinics can be incinerated.
- The loss of 33 living wage, union jobs at the Covanta facility.
- No longer the revenues we've had in the past to have an award-winning recycling and waste reduction program.

This also means that Marion County will have to dramatically modify its solid waste management system. Those impacts include:

- The temporary hauling of municipal solid waste to Coffin Butte in Benton County – 140 trucks per day over West Salem bridge, rearranging business and residential truck routes/schedules for garbage pickup.
- The need to design and construct a multi-million dollar mega transfer facility to reload all county municipal solid waste to truck to the Arlington, Oregon or Washington landfill – design and construction estimated cost is \$15 million.

And worse, the environment impact if Covanta goes away:

- 500+ tons of waste added to landfills daily.
- 9,800+ additional semi-truck loads on 1-5, I-84 each year (27 trucks per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year).
- No longer generating power for 9,000 homes.
- No longer recovering 8,000 tons of ferrous metal annually - the equivalent of 6,500 cars.

We do not want to face these unnecessary outcomes. We ask that you support and pass SB 451.