



### **Vote No on Senate Bill 451A**

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and hundreds of thousands of members and supporters across Oregon, we encourage you to vote no on Senate Bill 451A. We are public health experts, environmental organizations, and advocates for rural farmworkers who are committed to maintaining the integrity of Oregon's renewable energy portfolio standard and achieving our clean air goals. SB 451A is antithetical to these goals.

**SB 451A would give Covanta Marion, a trash incinerator, renewable energy credits (RECs) under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard..** Covanta Marion is the only waste incinerator in Oregon, though Covanta is a multinational corporation based in New Jersey.

Oregon's renewable portfolio standard, established in 2007, was intended to create incentives for the development of new renewable energy resources—not a facility that has been burning trash since 1987. **Covanta seeks to use Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard as a subsidy program to perform scheduled maintenance on their facility.**

If SB 451A succeeds, Oregon will stand alone on the West Coast in valuing garbage incineration as a source of clean power eligible to sell to utilities. **EPA data shows that Covanta Marion is the top polluter of particulate matter 10, particulate matter 2.5, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) in Marion County.** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality recently named Covanta Marion as one of its top priorities for attention under Cleaner Air Oregon, our statewide crackdown on toxic pollution. The plant emits over 160,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year, making it the state's 20th largest single emitter of greenhouse gases.

**The -4 amendments adopted in the Senate Rules Committee do not change our opinions on this fundamentally misguided bill.** Burning both biogenic (recently living) and anthropogenic (fossil fuel) carbon-containing trash immediately releases greenhouse gases and highly toxic pollution. Giving any amount of renewable energy credits to Covanta Marion will divert resources needed to support clean, renewable energy to meet our state's clean air and climate goals.

**Do not support this dangerous precedent. Vote no on SB 451A.**



From the Desk of  
Senator Jeff Golden