

From: [Sarah Deumling](#)
To: [HEE Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 4049
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:21:55 PM

February 3, 2020
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Karin Power and Other Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and a homeowner in the city of Salem I think the idea of giving Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to the Covanta Marion Incinerator is a very bad and also irrational idea. After digging into this issue a bit it appears that those RECs were intended to combat the climate issues we face by granting financial credits to NEW and NON CARBON EMITTING sources of energy. The incinerator is neither. Any credits that would go to Covanta would be using scarce resources for an expensive, very polluting source of energy, money that should be going to encourage/incentivize really renewable resources like solar and wind.

As we look for ways to get a handle on climate change dealing wisely with our municipal waste - reducing it - seems to me like low hanging fruit compared to other less clear, more intractable issues. There are many examples of successful Zero Waste programs around the country and even in our neighborhood (McMinnville). Furthermore there is a large and growing group of local folks behind this program which includes:

- A) educational programs along with state and local regulations to reduce/prevent waste,
- B) Reuse of products via repair (jobs)
- C) More and easier recycling,
- D) Making the composting of all organic materials easy for everyone which would eliminate the methane from landfills,
- E) Landfill the remainder, mostly plastics whose fossil fuel carbon would be sequestered for ever instead of burned.

Transitioning to a Zero Waste Program would create far more jobs than our current incinerator provides and most all the money would remain in our community instead of leaving for a large corporation on the east coast. Please, as a first step toward this goal, reject HB 4049 and RECs for the Covanta Incinerator. We can do so much better - better for jobs, better for public health, better for the environment and all that compost can rejuvenate our soil for local crops and gardens. A total win-win-win. And all we need to know to transition is out there - no need to reinvent the wheel.

Thank you for your service and for considering this.
Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling