

Legislators,

We have been residents of Marion County since 2004 and live about 3 miles from the Covanta Marion incinerator. Hollie holds an MS in Earth Science and teaches college courses on climate change and environmental science and resources. We've been researching zero waste options and have been organizing with a local group to transition Salem into a zero waste community for over a year. The largest barrier we face in making this important step to combat climate change locally, is the Covanta Marion incinerator, which requires Marion County to meet minimum trash requirements or face being fined by the company. This is a huge disincentive for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting, all of which are far less damaging to the environment and human health than the incineration of waste.

We urge you to not pass this bill that will grant renewable energy credits to Covanta Marion for burning waste to create energy. Burning waste to make energy is dirtier than burning coal. Burning waste is not a climate solution, it's a climate disaster. Additionally, Oregon DEQ has designated Covanta Marion as one of the twenty most toxic industries in the state and has scheduled it for a more comprehensive assessment in 2020 under Cleaner Air Oregon mandates. By comparison, not one landfill in Oregon is among the top 40 polluters in the state.

Renewable energy credits are intended to support new, renewable energy, not an outdated incinerator from the 1980s. Waste is not renewable, and burning it not only burns resources, but it burns jobs as well. Please do not divert funds away from new renewable energy projects that help us meet our climate goals and reduce pollution overall. Please do not reward this company that exports its profit out of state while leaving Oregonians to pay the health and environmental costs caused by this dirty industry.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Gary Miller
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