COVANTA
Powering Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

Testimony by Matthew Marler

House Committee on Energy and Environment

February 6, 2020

Good afternoon, my name is Matthew Marler. I live in Salem and work for Covanta, the operator of the waste-to-energy facility (WTE) that has provided safe, effective trash disposal and the generation of clean, renewable energy in Marion County since 1987.

I am here to express support for HB 4049, which will clarify the intent of the legislature in 2016 when it passed legislation designating the facility as renewable and allowing it to participate in Oregon's renewable energy credit market. In the summer of 2018, when attempting to get credits ready for sale to Portland General Electric under a newly negotiated Power Purchase Agreement, the Oregon Department of Energy found a conflict in the statute and took the position that we were not eligible to sell credits. We attempted to fix this in the past session under SB 451 and after a compromise, got it passed out of the Senate. Due to forces beyond our

control, the bill was not passed by the House at that time, and our bill today preserves the same compromise struck in the Senate previously. By passing HB 4049, the facility will be able to sell RECs for its biogenic power production only, on a forward-looking basis only.

Waste-to-Energy is recognized as a progressive energy technology around the world. More than 120 plants, with largely identical technology to the Marion County facility, have been built around the world in the past five years. WTE facilities have been defined as renewable in 30 states, the District of Columbia, and by the federal government for the past thirty years. The process of converting waste into energy is a key part of an integrated materials management plan that focuses on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery of energy.

The benefits of WTE vs landfilling cannot be understated. Landfills are a major source of the short-lived climate pollutant methane. Methane is 86 times more potent than CO2 in the atmosphere over 20 years. New information provided by NASA has shown that California landfills are “super-emitters” of methane, even under California’s strictest-in-the-nation LFG landfill gas requirements. A growing body of scientific work estimates actual landfill methane emissions at double typical inventories. Avoiding landfilling has consistently been proven as a means of reducing GHGs in

the atmosphere. Not a single state in the U.S. defines landfilling as better than Waste to Energy as a matter of policy, regulation, or law.
WTE also supplants the need for coal generation and can recycle substantial quantities of metal side-by-side with an existing curbside recycling program, and enhance overall recovery. Waste management should be done in accordance with Europe's,US EPA's, and the state's waste hierarchy—something Marion County follows excellently. We should reduce, reuse, recycle first, then use energy recovery for what is left, and as a last resort, landfill. In Oregon, landfills are eligible in the RPS for landfill gas capture technology.

In addition to its GHG benefits, the facility has an excellent track record of operating well below its permitted emission limits. For some emissions, the facility now operates up to 99 percent below than what is required by federal guidelines and Oregon DEQ. Specifically looking at the potential of expanding the Marion WTE facility, Metro Portland commissioned a comprehensive independent review of available literature on air quality health risk assessments and health surveillance programs. The review "determined that there was not a predictive or actual increase in health issues, including for those in vulnerable or sensitive "at-risk" populations such as children or the elderly."

One concern that has been expressed by other groups is that if allowed to participate in the REC market, this will impact the ability of other projects to enter the market. The facility's annual output eligible to generate RECs is equal to about two-tenths of one percent of the state's 2040 renewable goal. The facility outputs an average of 10 MW of electricity, approximately 55% of which is biogenic. At any given time, the facility may be providing 5 to 5.5MW of renewable electricity to PGE, and receiving RECs. One important aspect of WtEs renewable output is that it's baseload power, in contrast to variable technologies like wind and solar, and in that sense, is an excellent companion to these important technologies.

The REC program is intended to encourage renewable technologies. WtE was again recognized by Oregon's legislature in 2016 as renewable and eligible for participation in the RPS, and this technical clarification is critical to the future of this facility and WtE as a technology solution the state can leverage for years to come to provide clean, renewable baseload power and GHG mitigation. The facility is currently operating under a short, 1-year extension that ends this September. The future aftwerwards is unclear without this technical correction. At a time when you are considering important action on climate change, it's extremely important to

support technologies that are actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state.”

We urge your support and welcome any questions.

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2018 Greenhouse Gas Facility Emissions

The following table includes biogenic and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions data in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (mtCO2e)[1] for Oregon facilities with an air quality permit subject to DEQ's Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rules. This document reflects each facility's direct emissions that occurred during the 2018 calendar year as reported to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) for facilities in Lane County.[2] Please note that data summarized below is not a comprehensive accounting of all Oregon greenhouse gas emission sources.

	Facility Information				Facility Reported Data (metric tons CO2e)			Industry Classification Information
	DEQ Source Id[3]	Facility Name	City	County	Biogenic Emissions[4]	Anthropogenic Emissions[5]	Total Emissions	Industry Type[6]
13	11-0001	Waste Management Disposal Services of Oregon, Inc. (Columbia Ridge Landfill)	Arlington	Gilliam	88,888	245,610	334,498	Solid Waste Landfill
19	24-5398	Covanta Marion, Inc.	Brooks	Marion	83,739	78,986	162,725	Solid Waste Combustors and Incinerators
20	20-4740	Lane Co Short Mountain Landfill	Eugene	Lane	-	155,802	155,802	Solid Waste Landfill
25	36-0011	Riverbend Landfill Co.	McMinnville	Yamhill	35,782	74,856	110,638	Solid Waste Landfill
32	33-0007	Wasco County Landfill, Inc.	The Dalles	Wasco	-	89,065	89,065	Solid Waste Landfill
34	09-0040	Deschutes County Dept. of Solid Waste (Knott Landfill)	Bend	Deschutes	11,877	72,256	84,132	Solid Waste Landfill
39	25-0001	Finley Buttes Landfill Company	Boardman	Morrow	-	71,551	71,551	Solid Waste Landfill
49	15-0026	Dry Creek Landfill, Inc.	White City	Jackson	21,819	35,981	57,801	Solid Waste Landfill
57	10-0031	Douglas County Public Works Department (Roseburg Landfill)	Roseburg	Douglas	562	44,545	45,107	Solid Waste Landfill
76	02-9502	Valley Landfills, Inc. (Coffin Butte Landfill)	Corvallis	Benton	2,427	26,041	28,468	Solid Waste Landfill
161	26-3310	Metropolitan Service District (St Johns Landfill)	Portland	Multnomah	3,041	2,189	5,230	Solid Waste Landfill
245	15-0021	South Stage Landfill, Inc.	Medford	Jackson	1,793	14	1,807	Solid Waste Landfill