

February 7, 2020

House Committee on Energy and the Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chair Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair Janeen Sollman and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to reject HB 4049, it is bad for the state's air quality, it is bad for the state's progress on greenhouse gas reduction, and it takes away from the development of affordable renewable technologies like wind and solar.

Multnomah County is committed to renewable energy. In 2017, the Board of County Commissioners took the bold step of declaring that the County's entire electricity supply would be renewable by the year 2035. That commitment, however, specifically excluded municipal solid waste incineration because of the deleterious impacts of air emissions on people's health and the environment. Indeed, not only does burning trash hurt the environment, it is also a very expensive source of energy, one that the state and ratepayers can not afford in light of climate goals and the rapidly decreasing cost of new wind, solar and energy storage resources.

The legislature has wisely avoided granting renewable energy credits to trash incineration and excluded this source of energy from the renewable portfolio standards. It is time to put this issue to bed, and consign this idea to a suite of false solutions promoted by an industry that should be able to finance their own equipment upgrades and investments.

Sincerely,



John Wasiutynski  
Director