

HB 4049 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 02/13/20

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 5-4-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bonham, Helm, Power, Reschke, Smith DB

Nays: 4 - Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes eligibility for renewable energy certificates for facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste and became operational before January 1, 1995, if such facilities register with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System at any time. Limits eligibility to certain amount of electricity generated, per calendar year, from the combustion of biogenic material.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislation addressing waste to energy facilities and processes
- Marion County waste minimization strategies
- Original purpose of renewable energy credit program
- Operations and financials of Covanta

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a specified percentage of their retail electricity sales with generation from qualified renewable resources by set dates. ORS 469A.130 requires the Oregon Department of Energy to establish a system of renewable energy certificates (RECs) that can be used by an electric utility or service supplier to establish compliance with the applicable RPS. The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) issues RECs for Oregon-certified energy facilities that generate qualifying renewable power. Facilities receive one REC for one megawatt-hour of qualifying renewable energy they deliver to the grid. Utilities and electricity service suppliers purchase and then retire these RECs to demonstrate compliance with the RPS. The legislature added facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste as an eligible generation source under the RPS in 2010; these facilities are eligible for RECs for electricity generated on or after January 1, 2011.

House Bill 4049 would establish limited eligibility for RECs for facilities that generate electricity from the direct combustion of municipal solid waste and became operational before January 1, 1995, if the facility had been registered with WREGIS at any time.