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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

The Covanta Marion incinerator has been polluting air, soils, waters and crops for many years because the state of Oregon regulates it under EPA's very weak emissions standards for municipal waste (i.e., city trash) incinerators, rather than its more stringent standards for large medical waste incinerators.

Because Oregon's regulations are so weak large amounts of medical waste are sent here from other states and Canada. Medical wastes are more toxic than municipal waste, due to a higher percentage of pharmaceuticals, metals like mercury, and plastics . Plastics in medical waste contain more polyvinyl chlorides (PVCs), leading to higher levels of toxic air emissions, particularly dioxins and furans..

Most people do not realize Oregon has become a " dumping ground" . Communities impacted by Covanta's dirty air emissions include environmental justice communities in the Northeast Salem and Woodburn areas. The health of Oregonians and its environment suffer while Covanta makes money.

The state of Oregon must require the Covanta Marion incinerator to comply with EPA's more stringent regulations for these dangerous medical wastes. EPA guidelines will require greater control technology and more stringent emissions limits for medical waste..