

Submitter: Philip Ratcliff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB488

Covanta Marion is currently regulated under emissions standards for municipal waste (i.e., city trash) incinerators, rather than the more stringent standards for large medical waste incinerators.

Medical waste incineration is more toxic than municipal waste, due to a higher percentage of plastics, and because the plastics in medical waste contain more polyvinyl chlorides (PVCs), leading to higher levels of toxic air emissions, particularly dioxin and lead.

Communities that are affected by Covanta's dirty air emissions are environmental justice communities in the Northeast Salem and Woodburn areas.

The US EPA guidelines provide for greater control technology and lower emissions limits for medical waste.