



March 2, 2023

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Public Testimony in Support of SB 488**

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education and emphasize the importance of watershed resiliency as we navigate the unpredictable threat of climate change. We write to support SB 488, or more commonly known as the Medical Waste Incineration bill.

While our watershed does not encompass the Covanta Marion incinerator, we are still interested in the bill as it pertains to air and water quality. Medical waste incinerators create high levels of toxic air emissions, such as dioxin and lead. Dioxins are persistent organic pollutants, meaning they remain in the environment for a very long time. In addition to their impacts on human health through inhalation, dioxins can settle into sediment and water and are absorbed by aquatic life. EPA has established stricter regulations for medical waste incinerators for a reason. These pollutants pose a serious threat to the natural and human environment. It is time for Oregon to follow EPA's lead in ensuring these chemicals are properly regulated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Frankeny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Frankeny".

Victoria Frankeny [she/her]  
Riverkeeper & Staff Attorney  
Tualatin Riverkeepers  
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