SB 488A - MEDICAL WASTE INCINERATION ACT

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Impacts of Waste Incineration In Oregon

The Covanta Waste Incinerator in the mid-Willamette Valley burns nearly 180,000 tons of waste each year, including municipal, industrial and medical waste. In fact, Covanta is the nation's 4th largest incinerator burning untreated medical waste. Waste incinerators emit highly toxic air pollutants including heavy metals, dioxins and particulate matter, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides which pollute soils, rivers and air and harm human health and wildlife. Exposure to heavy metals can lead to learning disabilities, lowered IQ, and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children. **Dioxin is linked with cancer and birth defects.**

SB 488A IS A MODEL PROJECT TO ACCURATELY MEASURE AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS

- Most toxic pollutants are tested and reported on only a yearly basis, Emissions are never reported during startups, shutdowns and malfunctions when emissions are often high. This leads to under-reporting of the actual real time and annual quantity of toxic emissions.
- The passage of SB 488A will provide a well-justified improvement in how Oregon measures quantities of air pollutants discharged from Covanta Marion, a large industrial polluter.

SB 488A is a 2023 OCN Environment Bill of Support

OREGON CONSERVATION NETWORK

Did you know?

Covanta Marion burns tens of thousands of tons of imported medical waste while taking advantage of weaker municipal trash incinerator regulations. This makes Oregon a dumping ground for the toxic pollution that other states don't want.

SB 488A Modernizes Air Toxics Monitoring

Municipal, industrial and medical waste loaded into the incinerator produces uniquely different pollution profiles. For example, burning plastics and PVCs emit high levels of dioxin and heavy metals. However, Covanta waste incinerator only provides emissions data from one annual stack test for these pollutants. Air quality permits should be based on the most accurate, updated data technology can provide.

SB 488A establishes a pilot project to modernize data collection using continuous emissions monitoring at the incinerator. Available technology can capture accurate and frequent emission measurements of heavy metals, dioxins and PCB's that are not currently measured other than once a year during planned stack testing.

SB 488A Provides a Sensible Solution

SB 488A will give the DEQ the authority to accurately measure what pollution is produced by waste incineration. This will help the agency more accurately write air discharge permits. SB 488 will not impact taking care of Oregon's medical waste.

SB 488A creates a pilot project using available and modern technology that, in the future, will ensure better environmental protection and public health outcomes for all Oregonians.

SB 488A will guide waste incineration policies now and into the future.

Community Support for SB 488A

BEYOND TOXICS
Leadership for a thriving and just Oregon

OREGON PSR

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CLEAN AIR NOW! COALITION

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