



Action Alert: NO on SB 451!

Trash incineration should not be eligible for renewable energy credits!

SB 451 is a proposed piece of legislation that would qualify the incineration of trash, including plastics, as a renewable energy source, and make it eligible for renewable energy credits. It is being sponsored by Senator Beyer, and was introduced at the request of Covanta, the operator of the only waste-to-energy incinerator in Oregon. As of April 4, 2019 this bill is before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and may soon move to the full Senate. Make your voice heard in opposition to SB 451! Scroll down for more details and links.

Quick Action Tools:

- Track the bill here: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB0451>
- Sen. Tim Knopp, Deschutes County, 503-986-1727, Sen.TimKnopp@oregonlegislature.gov
- Not in Sen Knopp's district? Find your Senator here, and ask them to reject SB 451 <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/findyourlegislator/leg-districts.html>
- Bill sponsor Senator Beyer (503-986-1706) Sen.LeeBeyer@OregonLegislature.gov
- Chariman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources: Senator Dembrow, (503-986-1723) Sen.MichaelDembrow@OregonLegislature.gov
- Talking points (draw on these, and add your own words!): I'm calling to ask that (my Senator/the Committee) vote against SB 451! Trash burning creates pollution, adds toxins to the air, disproportionate impacts low income communities and contributes to climate change. It's inappropriate to give Covanta or any other company renewable energy credits for using trash burning as a source of electricity generation. Thank you.

More information and links:

If SB 451 passes, designating trash incineration as a renewable energy source, Covanta would be allowed to claim renewable energy credits *while emitting carbon and toxins into the air!* It is critical to reach out to legislators, demanding that they vote against SB 451, and that they also remove any exemptions for trash incineration from HB 2020. We must keep Oregon's carbon reduction policy strong, and focused on truly renewable sources such as solar and wind.

Classifying trash incineration as a "renewable" undermines strong environmental policy, but its impact on health and on climate justice is just as profound. Our friends from 350 Salem, close to where this incinerator is located, point out in their written testimony to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources that much of the waste burned at the facility is plastic, a material produced from fossil fuels, emitting not just greenhouse gases but toxins into the surround area.

<https://apps.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/164363>

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility cite concerns about emissions on "heavy metals, bio-accumulative organic toxins, and dioxin, all of which may harm the health of its neighbors, many of whom live in predominantly low-income communities and communities of color in Woodburn and NE Salem."

https://www.oregonpsr.org/take_action_burning_trash_and_plastic_is_not_renewable_energy?fbclid=IwAR0GeuTSAuUO4tpyM18y6djGyj6X1kF_mNTEEGZSivYgO3xZW0gRB-z7VFI