



Office of Senator Deb Patterson

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Oregon Senate Takes Action on Pollution from Municipal Waste Incinerators

SB 488 mandates emissions monitoring and waste limitations for municipal waste incinerators, ensuring a safer environment for Oregon communities

SALEM, Ore - Today the Oregon State Senate passed Senate Bill 488, taking action on pollution from municipal waste incinerators harming air quality and public health.

Covanta Marion, Oregon's only municipal waste incinerator, will be required to make a plan to increase monitoring emissions for 12 months. They have to send this plan to the Department of Environmental Quality and start using it within three months of getting approval. The law also says that these facilities cannot burn more than 18,000 tons of certain kinds of waste from hospitals or medical facilities in a single year.

"By monitoring municipal waste incinerators, we are creating a safer and healthier environment for our kids and families," said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem) who championed the legislation**. "Families need to know what they are breathing and the monitoring mandated by this bill will give us the clearer picture we deserve."

The emissions monitoring will account for heavy metals, PCBs (released when plastics are burned) and dioxin. This is a win for communities that are deeply concerned about what pollutants are coming out of waste incinerators. Reporting as a result of SB 488 will guide future policymaking by knowing accurately what pollutants are being omitted and in which quantities.

Reducing pollution is a key component of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

SB 488 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, SB 488 now moves to the House for consideration.

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