



July 13, 2016

Council President Tom Hughes
Metro
600 NE Grand
Portland OR 97232

Dear President Hughes,

Washington County offers its support to Metro Council to consider new options to improve the transparency of how disposal fees at public and private transfer stations are calculated. Our collection rate-setting process would benefit from having a clearer picture of why, for example, the Forest Gove transfer station rates have increased so dramatically in the last few years compared to the other public and private stations. There appears to be little justification or oversight of these rate increases.

With little to no cost details to support transfer station rate increases, our residential and business rate payers are subject to an ever-increasing collection expense burden. Our waste haulers have little realistic alternative to using the Forest Grove transfer station. And because costs associated with waste transfer are treated as a pass-through, the added costs are simply passed onto our rate payers. If our waste haulers were to take their loads to a more distant facility, it would result in lost efficiency, more fuel use, more greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts.

I understand that Metro Council will soon consider new options provided by Metro staff aimed at increasing rate/tip fee transparency at the transfer stations. I support these options to bring increased transparency to this process in order to protect our citizens and businesses from unreasonable collection rate increases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Duyck".

Andy Duyck
Chairman, Washington County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Metro Councilors
Washington County Board of Commissioners
County Administrator Bob Davis
Metro CEO Martha Bennett