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To: Legislative Coordinator
Subject: [External sender]MPAC Public Comment

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Hello,

I intend to provide public comment today at the meeting regarding the solid waste presentation. I apologize I was not able to get my comments to you yesterday by 4p. They are below.

Hello MPAC members, as you know I am a regular alternate but wanted to make my opinions heard about Metro's solid waste rate setting. I believe it is critical to have an open and transparent rate setting process for Metro as well as the private waste haulers working with Metro across the region.

- Disposal costs make about 1/4 of costs in Hillsboro, so continued Metro rate increases have a major impact on local rates.
- Fees at private transfer stations have consistently outpaced Metro rate increases and while Metro has the authority to more closely regulate these companies, they do not. The result is higher prices with little transparency and no recourse for residents of Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove, and any other communities that are not served by Metro's public stations.
 - Waste management has yet to justify a rate increase and Metro has yet to defend city interests in this. Additionally, as rate setting should be based on costs, the lack of data from private companies or oversight from Metro does not inspire faith in me. It is a fundamental role of Metro to regulate rates.
- The fee/rate setting information was not included in the packet. I assume this was an oversight, but it is still notable given how MPAC members have expressed a desire to see more information and prepare in advance of meetings. I am curious to hear what the cost drivers are in the next several years to necessitate rate increases.
- One reason Metro gives for raising rates is impacts from COVID. I would like to hear more about that as Metro's data shows that solid waste increased at the transfer stations during COVID.
- Another reason is the Regional Solid Waste Plan. I am grateful for many of the actions in the regional solid waste plan, I think they will create a more equitable and sustainable waste system and region. That said, it is important to consider the price of various strategies to ensure we are moving forward with the most cost effective and beneficial strategies.

Thank you and have a great evening.

Have a great day,
Councilor Anthony Martin