

Cornelius

Oregon's Family Town



January 25, 2021

Ms. Lynn Peterson
Metro Council President
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232-2436

Re: Future Metro West Recycling and Transfer Center

Dear Council President Peterson and Metro Councilors,

On behalf of the Cornelius City Council, I would like to express our support for the proposed Future Metro West Recycling and Transfer Center, which is being considered for preliminary investment through land purchase. Through robust community outreach, including multiple engagements with Cornelius city staff and the City Council, Metro has identified a 12.5-acre property in Cornelius' industrial district appropriate for such a facility. For nearly 18 months, Metro and Cornelius city staff have coordinated zoning compliance, property due diligence, and programming and infrastructure concepts, and we have reached a clear understanding of the objectives and opportunities that this project will bring to the community of Cornelius and western Washington County.

Cornelius has a population of approximately 12,600 residents, nearly 52 percent of them identifying as Latino. Our community's poverty rate hovers near ten percent. Our community is also growing, as is nearly all of Washington County, and we expect a 30 percent increase in our city's population within the next five years. We are assisting numerous new commercial and industrial businesses drawn to our bountiful city, which is increasingly developing itself as a complete, though regionally interconnected, community. Our industrial road network is nearly fully built out, and we host a major section of Washington County's Regional Freight Network through our industrial district.

Cornelius has worked very hard over the past decade to improve our economic condition through sound planning policies, culturally-sensitive community outreach, and recruitment and growth of our industrial base. We are thoughtful about how new industry will impact our communities, as well as the positive results created through new employment opportunities. Since our initial discussions with Metro staff in 2019, our City Council and staff have been supportive and excited about the new resources that a state-of-the-art recycling, recovery, and transfer facility can bring to this corner of the Portland Metro region. From family-wage jobs to greater opportunities and convenience for commercial and household waste management, including household hazardous waste – always a difficult waste category to manage in exurban communities – this new facility will bring new employment and an equitable level of service to communities that have to date been limited in

their waste management options. This project gives appropriate investment to west side communities while serving the greater region and fulfilling Metro's Regional Waste Plan.

As you can see, Cornelius is a very suitable community to host Metro's next waste recycling, recovery, and transfer station. Our community has expressed strong support for this project, and our elected and appointed officials have met this effort with excitement and encouragement. We collectively see this as an asset and an opportunity to not only serve the waste management needs of the west side, but also contribute to our city's economic development and environmental management initiatives.

The Cornelius City Council urges the Metro Council to vote in favor of purchasing the 12.5-acre property on N 4th Avenue in Cornelius, thereby taking one major step toward fulfillment of Metro's Regional Waste Plan and equitable distribution of resources and amenities across its service area.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. Dalin
Mayor of Cornelius