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May 4, 2018

Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners
Mr. Joe Gardner, Chair
207 4th Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626

Re: Headquarters Landfill

Dear Commissioner Gardner:

On Thursday, May 3, 2018, the Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners identified Republic Services as the preferred partner for a potential public-private partnership to manage the Cowlitz County Headquarters landfill.

Based on the article published in The Daily News on Friday, May 4, 2018, titled "County narrows landfill list to one", it states the Commissioners have not yet decided whether a public-private partnership is the best plan for operating the Headquarters landfill. The article goes on to say that Commissioners are waiting for a proposal from Public Works Director Mike Moss which will argue that Cowlitz County should continue running the landfill on its own.

Under the County's oversight, profits at the Headquarters landfill have exceeded \$4 million annually for each of the past two years and the landfill has capacity for another 100 years. Additionally, Cowlitz County residents and citizens of Longview currently enjoy among the lowest tipping fees in the State.

Citizens have expressed concerns that a public-private partnership of the Headquarters landfill could decrease its lifespan and result in increased tipping fees.

As representatives of the largest city in the County, the Longview City Council has a deep desire to preserve this invaluable asset for all its citizens and the business community for decades to come.

As such, the Longview City Council respectfully requests that the Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners slow down this process and delay a final decision on selecting an operator for the Headquarters landfill until more information and a thorough assessment of impacts and benefits can be provided to all those that have such an important stake in this decision.

Sincerely,

Don Jensen, Mayor

cc: Longview City Council
Kurt Sacha, City Manager