

[Clackamas County Letterhead]

December 9, 2020

Council President Lynn Peterson
Councilor Shirley Craddick
Councilor Christine Lewis
Councilor Craig Dirksen
Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez
Councilor Sam Chase
Councilor Bob Stacey

Dear Metro Councilors:

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, and our advisory body the Solid Waste Commission, have reviewed the timing and scale of the disposal fee increases that Metro has considered adopting between now and July 2021.

We appreciate Metro's decision to delay the effective date of the next increase to July 2021, in keeping with the typical schedule. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the solid waste system, and that deferring an increase has impacts to Metro's reserve funds, and to Metro's ability to invest in the solid waste system.

We understand that Metro is considering the largest increase to disposal fees in several years: a 13% increase in the tip fee (increasing \$8.40/ton) and a 36.4% increase in the Regional System Fee (increasing \$7.07/ton). Metro staff have indicated that significant increases also would be required in subsequent years, to support needed capital investment in modernizing transfer stations, and to support initiatives identified in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.

The size of this increase leads us to ask for more information and transparency from Metro about the rationale for and uses of the proposed increase, and how it will be used to benefit communities around the region. We invite you to share more with us at a Board meeting or in a Clackamas County Coordinating Committee meeting (C4), or both.

Regards,

Jim Bernard

Chair, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners