

August 2, 2016

Dear Commissioners of Lane County,

My name is Billy Burruss. I've lived in Deadwood for 10 years. According to the R3 report, Deadwood is part of the bottom 5%, those that will be living much more than 15 miles from a transfer station as proposed. The average distance to a transfer station from Deadwood will be 34 miles. This proposal asks that rural residents, often those least able to afford the increases, will be in fact making up the shortfalls. I am here to speak in behalf of the rural residents of Lane County, and especially Deadwood.

I attended the information meeting in Walton on July 20 and I've talked to a lot of neighbors about the proposed closing of our local transfer station at Swisshome. Everyone I talked to is opposed to the closings. The most common reason is the conviction that **people will go back to dumping their garbage in the forest, in parks, down the sides of mountains or directly along the roads.** This would have serious environmental consequences:

- Garbage and trash will be washed into the creeks and rivers. Imagine the consequences for our salmon of just one ruptured can of old, lead-based paint.

- Some people will go back to burn barrels with the increased risk of starting a forest fire. Compare the cost of a forest fire to the 1.5 million budget shortfall.

- Wildlife will be exposed to poisons in dumped trash.

- Plastic, once broken down, can never be retrieved, and becomes a permanent part of our ecosystem, depositing toxins into our soils and streams.

In addition, tourism will be negatively effected by trash strewn along rural highways. The trash will be shredded by DOT mowing, making retrieval very difficult, if not impossible.

I have the following suggestions to address the problem.

- As proposed, drop the \$1 senior discount.
- Raise fees at urban centers and for urban trash pickup, where it is more in line with income of residents. Urban residents also enjoy rural vacations.
- Add a significant rebate for low-income families.
- Improve the recycle system to make it pay for itself, including examining the current commingle rules.
- Consider selling some of the 100 year capacity of the Short Mountain Landfill.
- Pay residents something for their high value recyclables.
- Examine what Rattlesnake Transfer Site does to get 12.85 tons/load that Swisshome, Walton, and Mapleton could be doing.
- Consider closing rural transfer stations two weeks per month.
- Improving education and community efforts in recycling to improve efficiency. Involve organizations of hunters and fishermen who have an environmental ethic and work with USFS and BLM on plans to keep garbage and trash out of the forest and streams.

The Enterprise Fund designation should be reviewed. Perhaps part of the solid waste management division could be separated. The role of government is to provide services to its citizens, including its rural citizens. The costs of failure to provide for reasonable trash removal will be damage to our environment that will effect the whole of the population now and for generations to come.