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June 7, 2006  
WD bc/bd/06016/T

The Honorable Sid Leiken  
Mayor, City of Springfield  
225 North 5th  
Springfield, OR 97477

Re: Lane County's Solid Waste (Central receiving) Transfer Station in Glenwood

Dear Mayor Leiken:

On the May 8, 2006 Springfield Economic Development Agency's (SEDA) agenda, there was a proposal to contract with a consultant to study the possible relocation of the Glenwood Central Receiving Transfer Station (CRS). First, let me express disappointment that this was placed on the SEDA meeting agenda for action. Lane County has successfully operated the Waste Management program for many years. The Central Receiving Station is a key component of the program and a heads up that this was coming would have been appreciated. We very much appreciate that when Lane County raised objections, you quickly agreed to take the item off the agenda. I have now had an opportunity to consult with Public Works staff and consult with my colleagues on the Board. As an initial comment, has Springfield or SEDA developed a vision for Glenwood redevelopment and an explanation for why the Central Receiving Station does not fit that vision? If you could send that over we would like to review that with our Waste Management staff to see if there is a way to accommodate your vision without needing to relocate the Central Receiving Station.

Getting to the merits of the proposal, it is our understanding that the City of Springfield may be interested in relocating the Glenwood Transfer Station. As an initial comment, Lane County is certainly willing to cooperate, but this is a complex issue. Before we go too far, we want to make sure that the City of Springfield is agreeable with the following understandings:

- 1) The City of Springfield and SEDA will assume responsibility for all costs. This means there is to be no subsidy paid by rate payers. As the City of Springfield is aware, the Central Receiving Station, as well as Lane County's entire Waste Management Division, is funded exclusively by tipping fees. It is only appropriate that if there are costs associated with relocation, that the specific general purpose government or Urban Renewal Agency that is interested in making the change cover those costs. Right now the CRS is quite functional and we plan to operate it for the foreseeable future.
- 2) The goal should be to replace the transfer station with a new facility that is functionally equivalent and perhaps superior. We would remind you that this is not an easy task. In 2005, over 146,000 loads were processed through the Central Receiving Station, and the

workload has only grown since then. The current site was selected because it is a central location minimizing citizen, hauler and Waste Management transfer costs, both financial and environmental. Finding a similar central location will not be easy.

- 3) Springfield will obtain the agreement of our two neighbors, SaniPac and EcoSort, as both are located next to the Central Receiving Station for obvious purposes. Their continued cooperation and partnership is essential to a functionally equivalent transfer operation.
- 4) Lane County and the Waste Management Division will be in charge of the relocation plan and the operation plan. Springfield would also pay for any Waste Management Division staff time to commit to the development of that relocation study and operation plan. What we would recommend here is a short Intergovernmental Agreement that has a work plan and spells out who is responsible for which task and who pays.
- 5) The City of Springfield will assume responsibility for applying for and obtaining the land use and regulation approval for any new transfer station. Depending on location, in the event that Lane County is not the final land use authority, we provide in our agreement that the County must approve of the new site.

As an alternative to the above and getting back to the vision comment above, we would like to offer an alternative. Are there specific negative impacts from the CRS that you would like reduced? If you could identify those, we could perhaps work on plans to mitigate those, such as high walls, a sound berm, landscaping etc. It is our understanding that in other parts of the country, central receiving stations are blended into residential neighborhoods and citizens are hardly aware of their existence. We would be pleased to work with Springfield with regard to mitigation plans.

In conclusion, Lane County is willing to work with the City of Springfield on this project, but we want to make sure that our ratepayers are not subsidizing a project and any new facility is equivalent if not superior to the current operation.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Dwyer, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners:

c: Board of Commissioners  
John Tamulonis, City of Springfield  
Ollie Snowden Director of Public Works.