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OCT 12 2006

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

October 8, 2006

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

re: Waste Connections

Regarding the proposed rate hike requested by Waste Connections, the increased rates must be modified or refused in total.

There can be no justification for the disparage between the requested increase of \$.95 for 1 32-gallon can weekly, and the requested increase of \$4.00 for 2 32-gallon cans weekly. A difference of over 400% between the two levels of service is beyond logic.

Waste Connections desire to recover "the escalating costs of operations" is no different than the same need as their customers. We all are paying more for fuel and insurance these days, but outrageous rate increases to customers is not the answer. If \$.95 is enough increase for a single trash can, why aren't they requesting only double that amount for two cans?

Waste Connections already has an absolute monopoly in the residential waste market in SW Washington, leaving residents with no alternative but to pay whatever they charge. We depend on local government agencies to regulate their pricing, since we are unable to do so. To grant these public service companies outright monopolies and then rubber-stamp their rate hikes makes the government regulatory agencies useless to the consumer.

Your response to Waste Connections' unjustifiable request will tell the residents of Washington exactly who is in charge of whom.

Craig A. Sinclair

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