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Sent via email

August 25, 2008

Mr. Sam Crawford  
Whatcom County Councilmember, District 2  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105  
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: AB2008-287, Exempting Point Roberts from Mandatory Curbside Recycling

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Thank you for your reply to my questions. I am sorry if you interpreted them as "conveying suspicion and implied mistrust". That certainly was not my intent. I was merely asking honest questions about why you are putting forth a proposal that rewards someone who, while leasing county property for a very favorable rate, is out of compliance with his contract, is refusing to provide services mandated by county code, and could sell his G certificate at any time to anyone. His refusal to abide by the code denies county citizens a basic service to which we are entitled. Also, for the second year in a row, he is one of possibly two haulers statewide that are out of compliance with WUTC annual report filing requirements.

It is surprising that Council and the WUTC seem willing to take what PRR says as if it is fact even though no proof is offered. For example, Arthur contends that the company that operated the hauling service before PRR declared bankruptcy. That company was Point Roberts Sanitation, owned by Linda Myrdal and then Barb Matthews. I cannot find anything showing that either individual or a company with that name ever entered into bankruptcy. PRR also claims they are receiving twice as much recycling under the self-haul system. Is this true or is it that they are getting more recycling because in the past they threw recycling into the garbage truck, as I have seen them do myself on several occasions?

I am also surprised that Council and WUTC believe that negotiations will result in an agreement that PRR will actually follow. PRR has signed two leases for the facility in which they agreed to abide by trash and recycling laws. PRR has now deemed curbside recycling untenable so it has unilaterally decided to stop providing service.

Your apparent indifference to the effect that rewarding of his bad behavior may have on other businesses or service providers and your reluctance to engage a county citizen in an open debate about the issue is disappointing. It seems to me that these are the most basic responsibilities of public service.

Like you, I do not want to be involved in a debate about this. In fact, I do not want to be involved in this issue at all. I want to live my life and know that the county is doing its job and enforcing its laws. Instead, based on Dave Danner's letter to Barbara Brenner, I am left wondering how and when the County Council will react.

As a result, I feel that there is no alternative except to take legal action to force the County to enforce its laws. Among other things, the proposed curbside recycling change must be withdrawn from consideration and the Council must commit to proceeding with its case against PRR at WUTC in December. If you believe there are any other alternatives that require PRR to both treat customers with respect and allow curbside recycling to continue, please let me know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Shannon Tomsen

Exhibit 4