

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
5th DISTRICT
GLENN ANDERSON

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

HIGHER EDUCATION
EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS



July 8, 2008

Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket # TG-080591 (CR-101 filing)

Dear Ms. Washburn,

I am writing regarding your consideration of new rules governing recycling of construction and demolition debris. I urge the UTC to refrain from passing any new rules that limit or reduce recycling of these materials and consequently sending hundreds of thousands of tons of debris back to landfills for disposal. Such an action would be a tremendous step backward. Indeed, additional *incentives* for the aggressive and innovative recycling of these materials is clearly warranted.

Construction and demolition debris has always been managed differently from garbage. Materials were often buried right on the construction site, burned in open piles, or dumped in private, unlined and inert landfills. Legislative intent over the last several years has unambiguously encouraged a "green-friendly" jobs creation approach, and I assume that the UTC seeks to encourage such an approach, as well. The emergence of a robust private recycling industry in this state is good for our environment and economy and should be encouraged, not undermined by unnecessary new rules.

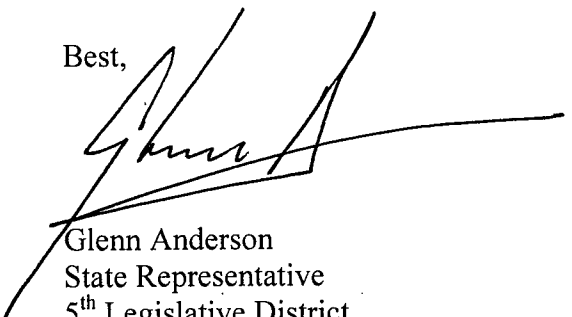
Recycling facilities are already regulated by numerous agencies, including the Department of Ecology, local health jurisdictions, county zoning and land use agencies, clean air agencies and others. These agencies set standards for the proper handling of materials for recycling. Now the UTC is being asked to adopt rules not to protect the environment, or human health and safety, but rather to establish a system whereby only traditional garbage companies will be allowed to handle this material. This kind of commercial initiative to stifle competitive alternatives through government regulatory intervention is an old and transparent story. The public can only be harmed by such a government-sanctioned monopoly that provides no benefit to them.

2008 JUL 10 AM 10:27

080591

Those seeking this monopoly point to “sham recyclers,” who charge recycling fees, then illegally dump materials. I have no doubt such activity occurs. There are existing laws to deal with this situation, but there is nothing in the proposed rules that will effectively put an end to it. The victims of the new rule will be the legitimate independent recyclers who are successfully creating jobs, reducing costs to construction companies and keeping thousands of tons of debris out of our landfills. Such success is to be encouraged, rewarded and set above as an example of the right way to make change happen. I encourage you to highlight that right example in your consideration of this issue.

Best,



Glenn Anderson
State Representative
5th Legislative District