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OCT 25 2006
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

10/22/2006

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

Dear Commission Members:

I received the notice regarding potential rate increases for refuse collection. While I understand that operating costs may have increased, the 26% increase in the rates for 2-32 Gallon Cans weekly is excessive.

Unfortunately, as residents we are unable to petition the state when operating costs for our households have risen. We have all been hit hard by the rising gas prices.

The nature of refuse collection activities gives the collection company a monopoly over the service. We are compelled to use the collection facility in our residential area even if bordering communities costs are less. The differences can be and are significant between Cowlitz and Clark County.

If you approve a rate increase please make sure the increase is limited to actual need and the collection company provides accurate supporting documentation. In addition, please keep the increases in line with one another to help those of us with larger families keep the impact to a minimum.

Sincerely,

Tina M. Watkins

Tina M. Watkins

[Redacted]

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(Handwritten signature)
OCT 25 2006
CONSUMER AFFAIRS