



Pierce County

Office of the County Executive

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September 14, 2005

Eddie Westmoreland, Vice President
Pierce County Recycling, Composting and Disposal, LLC dba LRI
17925 Meridian Street E
Puyallup, WA 98375

Woodbrook Estate Homeowner Association
Attn: Amy Brymer
PO Box 901
Graham, WA 98338-0901

Dear Mr. Westmoreland and Woodbrook Estate Homeowner Association:

Re: Woodbrook Road relocation

It has come to my attention that discussions to resolve this matter have thus far yielded little progress. I am therefore writing to convey the importance to the County and its citizens of a timely and satisfactory conclusion to this issue.

The County's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) relies heavily on in-county land fill capacity as the most inexpensive and reliable means for disposing of the County's waste for the foreseeable future and identifies the 304th Street Landfill as the primary source for that option. In addition, the SWMP places heavy emphasis on controlling the rates our citizens have to pay for waste disposal. A significant component of those rates is landfill fees. Relocation of Woodbrook Road is critical to realization of these two cornerstones of the SWMP because it will enable the cost effective use of the full capacity of the landfill. Therefore, the relocation must occur. But if it can only be accomplished at exorbitant cost, the County's ratepayers will bear the brunt and it is my intention to use the powers of this office, if necessary, to prevent that result.

Naturally, I would prefer to see the parties reach a fair compromise which I would expect would include an improved, safe and convenient alternative road for the Association's members with adequate mitigation for the road construction phase. Additionally, any homeowner whose property value is negatively affected by the relocation should be fully compensated for the amount of such loss. I encourage you to diligently work toward such a solution to the matter which will fairly compensate the affected homeowners, but with due regard for the interests of the citizens and ratepayers of Pierce County. However I must also make clear that if reasonable agreement appears unobtainable, I will not hesitate to commence proceedings to condemn Woodbrook Road. While this may seem harsh, it would



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be no more onerous for the homeowners than the agreement I have proposed above. Condemnation requires that property owners be fairly compensated for the property taken and I would insure that such compensation would include a replacement road of even better quality than the existing one. Nevertheless, I feel obligated to pursue this process, absent a voluntary agreement, to protect the citizens of Pierce County from rate increases and loss of landfill capacity.

Sincerely,



John W. Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive

hs/gk

cc: Shawn Bunney, Pierce County Councilmember, Dist 1
Calvin Goings, Pierce County Councilmember, Dist 2
Roger Bush, Pierce County Councilmember, Dist 3
Timothy Farrell, Pierce County Councilmember Dist 4
Barbara Gelman, Pierce County Councilmember Dist 5
Dick Muri, Pierce County Councilmember Dist 6
Terry Lee, Pierce County Councilmember Dist 7
Lyle Quasim, Chief of Staff
Brian Ziegler, Director of Public Works and Utilities