



Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste

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May 23, 2013

Representative Brian Clem
Chair, House Land Use Committee
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, H-284
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Senate Bill 462

Dear Representative Clem:

Deschutes County has been following the progress of Senate Bill 462 with interest. The County currently manages a composting operation within the confines of a solid waste facility which is located adjacent to school property. To date, we have received no complaints from the school district, teachers, or parents regarding the composting operation; however we are concerned that new legislation could potentially open the door for conflict in the future.

As a result, our staff has thoroughly reviewed SB 462 and the proposed amendments for potential impacts to Deschutes County. It appears that SB 462 would establish certain land use procedures triggered by the establishment of or specific changes in a disposal site. The County believes that as an existing facility, absent a modification described in the bill, the Department of Environmental Quality would not be constrained to renew the County's permit to operate its disposal site. For this reason, we are taking a neutral position on SB 462 at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of potential impacts to Deschutes County as you deliberate this issue. If you have questions concerning our position on the matter, please contact me at 541-317-3163.

Sincerely,

Timm Schimke
Solid Waste Department Director

c: House Land Use Committee