



# SMITH'S DISPOSAL

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Dear Valued Customer,

I am writing this letter to, as promised, keep you updated on the possibility of you losing your right to choose your garbage hauler. A report was recently finalized and presented to Oakland County and will soon be presented to the individual Township boards. It is my understanding that the report will include a recommendation that several Townships join together to form an Authority and contract out all waste, compost and recyclables hauling. Upon acceptance of this recommendation, and formation of this Authority, the Townships will begin to move forward with implementing the steps necessary to contract Solid Waste Hauling to whomever they choose, not you.

The company doing this study sites the fact that going to a contracted hauler will help mandate recycling initiatives as well as force haulers to provide single stream recycling. They have mentioned in a recent local newspaper article how Rochester Hills recently implemented such a program and attributes it to a waste hauler contract. I already provide this program. I saw that you wanted a more user friendly and comprehensive program and began single stream recycling last July. I have also began talks on implementing a Rewards program to further encourage and assist our customers to 'Go Green' and get involved in recycling. I did this because it was what was needed, both for our customers and to help protect the environment.

It is also stated that you will receive curbside pickup of compost at no charge. Again, I already provide this service. Our customers enjoy garbage, compost and single stream recycling at a very competitive rate, now, with no fuel surcharges or administration fees. No long term contracts. And in the rare instance that someone is unhappy with the quality of service that we provide, it has always been their right to switch to a different hauler. Isn't that what our nation is, or was, based on?

Additionally, it is being promised is that fewer garbage companies will mean better roads. This really isn't true. There was a quote in The Citizen that quoted an employee from the Oakland County Road Commission as saying "it will not make a significant difference". Evidence of that can be seen by driving through some neighboring communities that have contracted solid waste. Their roads are typically no better than ours. Aside from that, who will be next? Will we force Fed Ex and DHL out of the area and only allow one delivery company on our roads, UPS? How about pizza deliveries or florists? Will we limit our road access to them as well?

I have received an overwhelming amount of support and response to the letter that was mailed to you this past spring. A great many of you emailed and called me stating that you were opposed to this measure and wanted to know what you could do. The most important thing to do now is contact the leaders in the Township in which you live. Voice your opinion and let them know that it is your desire to keep your right to choose. Email or write to your Township Trustees or Supervisor. Most importantly, find out when this issue will be on the agenda of the next Board Meeting and attend. Let your voice be heard. If you do not do so now, you may lose the right. Some of the people in charge of this study are taking the lack of vocal opposition as a sign of acceptance and are moving forward. A survey has been posted on your local government's website, but very few people even know about it, and the responses have been minimal. If you take the survey, please, keep in mind that we already provide the recycling program they want and are in talks to start a Rewards Program. I know based on feedback from my last letter that the idea of more government control worries a lot of you. It is time to make sure that each and every Township Official hears your voice. Tell them that you are against this measure. Let them know you are against forcing more small Michigan companies out of business.

Thank You,

Carol Evans, President  
Smith's Disposal