



MURIEL BOWSER

MAYOR

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Mary M. Cheh  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 108  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Sustainability Assessment of Disposal Options study

Dear Councilmember Cheh:

Enclosed please find a copy of the “Sustainability Assessment of Disposal Options” study that was prepared on behalf of the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) by the consultant CDM Smith, and which you had requested be conducted. The study assessed the environmental, social, and economic impacts that waste disposal at the District’s waste-to-energy provider, Covanta Fairfax, has as compared to two District-used landfills.

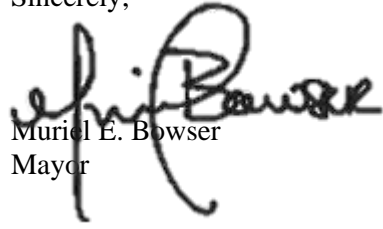
While the study confirmed that our current waste disposal provider is the best performing option from an economic, environmental, and social context, DPW continues to identify sustainable alternatives to achieve our zero waste goals. For example, DPW’s Office of Waste Diversion is diligently planning for a zero waste future with the development of a Zero Waste DC Plan. This plan will identify the ways in which the District can divert 80% of the city’s waste stream away from waste-to-energy and landfills and towards the highest and best use possible..

Additionally, during the coming year, DPW will expand the highly popular Food Waste Drop-off program beyond its existing 10 locations with a goal to provide convenient composting sites across all eight wards without limiting access to just the warmer months.

Finally, the District made a historical capital investment of more than \$100 million dedicated to the modernization and transformation of our Benning Road Transfer Station into a new Zero Waste Campus. In time, this investment will transform our ability to collect, transfer, and process material while accelerating the development of a circular economy through eliminating waste, reducing pollution, and better circulating products and materials. This means more jobs, better and more convenient city services for hard-to-recycle materials, and a brighter and more sustainable zero waste future for all.

Thank you for your patience awaiting this study and please reach out to DPW if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel E. Bowser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial "M".

Muriel E. Bowser  
Mayor