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December 9, 2010

Dear Metro,

On behalf of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, I am writing regarding the proposed Columbia Biogas Facility. The Council is a diverse group of stakeholders with the mission to foster action to protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the Slough and its watershed.

Columbia Biogas is proposing to build and operate a utility scale biogas production facility which will convert local food waste into renewable power, fertilizer and soil amendments, heat, and water. This facility will be located in the Slough Watershed, along the Whitaker Slough.

Based on their presentation to the Watershed Council and meetings with Council members, neighborhood groups, and civic organizations, we are writing in support of the facility. This facility will benefit the Slough, Watershed, and the region in the following ways:

- Assists in revitalizing the Slough through upgrades in stormwater management on the site
- Plans to offer education opportunities such as facility tours to illustrate how the plant can protect and enhance the environment
- Includes a commitment to donate liquid fertilizer and soil amendments products for restoration and enhancement projects
- Promotes expansion of programs to recover commercial food waste in support of the region's goal to reduce waste and enable food waste to be recycled here
- Establishes Portland as a leader in innovative clean energy technology
- Supports efforts to achieve long-term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
- Produces liquid fertilizer and soil amendments from a renewable resource which reduces the use of petroleum-based nitrogen fertilizer
- Produces renewable power, replacing fossil fuels and associated pollutants
- Proposes to develop and sign a Good Neighbor Agreement
- Proposes to train and hire locally and collaborate with local employment programs
- Will establish a community enhancement program to support local projects

We encourage Metro to approve the necessary permits and franchise agreements required to build and operate this facility.

*Jane Van Dyke, Executive Director
Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Our mission: To foster action to protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the Slough and its watershed.