



METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

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Testimony of Michael Burton, Chairman of the
Metropolitan Service District before the
House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

March 16, 1979

My name is Michael Burton and I am Chairman of the Metropolitan Service District in Portland. I want to thank you for the support you have given MSD in the past and take this opportunity to share with you a brief status report on our first days as the nation's most unique form of regional government. Rick Gustafson will follow to take you section by section through House Bill 2328, legislation that has been proposed by the MSD Council.

Rick Gustafson,
Executive Officer

MSD Council

Mike Burton,
Presiding Officer
District 12

Donna Sturr,
Deputy Presiding
Officer
District 1

Charles Williamson
District 2

Craig Berkman
District 3

Corky Kirkpatrick
District 4

Jack Deines
District 5

Jane Rhodes
District 6

Betty Schedeen
District 7

Caroline Miller
District 8

Cindy Banzer
District 9

Gene Peterson
District 10

Marge Kafoury
District 11

As you know, we began operation on January 1, a mere 74 days ago. Among our first challenges was to bring the staff of the old Metropolitan Service District and of the Columbia Region Association of Governments together into a coordinated working unit. This has been accomplished, I believe, despite the physical obstacle of them not being under one roof.

A second challenge, and one that has been given top priority, was how we should organize to conduct our business; to keep up with the demand of the agency work program and, at the same time, coordinate our efforts with those of our constituent cities and counties and be accessible to the general public. At our last meeting following weeks of analysis and study of various organizational structures, the Council adopted an overall structure that includes Council Committees, a Local Government Advisory Committee and a series of Policy Alternative Committees keyed to various work elements. The latter committees will include citizens and representatives of local

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and state government agencies. I met with the Council Committee chairpersons last night and am happy to report that they are all enthusiastic to start tackling the substantive issues that are before us.

And, they are many. In the area of solid waste, for example, upon taking office we were already behind schedule in obtaining a new sanitary landfill site for the region's annual accumulation of 750,000 tons of solid waste. The politics of landfill siting are extremely sensitive, as I am sure you are aware. People and garbage simply do not mix. Because of this, MSD is searching for other solutions to maximize the life of our landfills -- such measures as the resource recovery facility proposed for Oregon City which would turn garbage into steam producing fuel.

Next week the Council is scheduled to consider adoption of an areawide plan to equitably distribute federal housing assistance resources to cities and counties throughout the SMSA. And I'm happy to report that, as of yesterday, the plan has been supported by 24 jurisdictions, covering 95% of the area's population - which will insure HUD certification and make the area eligible to receive additional (bonus) funds from the federal government.

We will soon be deciding on a methodology for distributing 20 million dollars in I-505 transfer funds to a number of proposed transportation projects around the region.

Also up for consideration is the matter of developing a plan to contain flooding in the Johnson Creek area and further

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defining our role in land use planning. Before June 30, we are expecting to review 20 local plans for LCDC compliance. Beyond that is the issue of continued funding of the Washington Park Zoo after the serial levy expires at the end of FY 1980.

There is no doubt that we twelve part-time policy makers have a busy time ahead of us managing the issues which were authorized in the MSD legislation. For that reason, we have agreed to seek no expansion of our authority at this time but only wish to clarify items addressed in the enabling legislation.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to speak to you today. In closing, I want to congratulate the Legislature for the insight you showed in 1977 with the creation of this unique regional government. Representative Otto was Chairman of the Committee which produced House Bill 2070, and he was the leader in getting it approved. The MSD Council is committed to making your concept work.