



July 1, 1992

**TUALATIN VALLEY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Hardy Meyers, Chairman  
Metro Charter Committee  
P.O. Box 9236  
Portland, OR 97207

Dear Hardy and Members of the Committee:

It is with deep regret that I must tender my resignation from the Metro Charter Committee, effective immediately. As you know, I will be in Eastern Europe from July 2 to July 23. It is unfortunate that my trip should come at such a crucial time in our deliberations, but some things cannot be helped.

As I have reflected on the messages we have received these last few days, several issues come to the fore that I feel must be addressed. We have heard from many people with long term ties to Metro who believe this charter weakens Metro and gives undue influence to local government. This is patently untrue. If you compare the current statutory direct grants of power to that granted by this charter, it will become crystal clear that the people who have espoused this position are either misinformed or are deliberately trying to mislead this committee.

We have heard repeatedly that a strong partnership exists between Metro and the local governments, therefore there is really no need to memorialize this relationship in the charter. I urge you all to read the testimony of the RGC from the Tuesday night hearing. The events being chronicled by the RGC are not exaggerated to gain your support. They represent only three indicators of Metro's resistance to bringing any other agencies into partnership on issues of regional significance. I can speak to this issue with authority because of my personal involvement with both Metro and the local governments of the region for the past 8+ years.

If the testimony of the RGC and my own history with regional government were not evidence enough, today's press conference at Metro calling for one megagovernment would convince me that something is seriously wrong in this region. This press conference was called unilaterally by the Executive Officer. It was called to announce a proposal to restructure government in the region at the same time that this committee is moving toward the completion of its own work on defining regional government. As far as I could determine during the testimony of Jim Gardner last night, Metro council knew little or nothing about the proposal. In fact, Mr. Gardner, the presiding officer of Metro's

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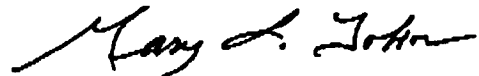
policy body, told us that we knew more about the proposal than he did. How can the administrative officer of a public agency propose the complete restructuring of regional government without consulting with her peers? This certainly represents an odd form of regional partnership.

Finally, as further evidence of what regional partnership and citizen input means to the current Metro policy makers I would offer the following. At our last public hearing, after offering testimony on our charter draft, with no prior warning to the charter committee or the local governments, Jim Gardner presented us with a new Metro charter. This document does three things: it puts the current status quo into charter language, expands the taxing authority of Metro and ignores all of the issues that this committee has deemed important to the future of the region. When asked, Mr. Gardner indicated that this version of a charter has been before the council for the last three to six months. Metro has done nothing to work toward solutions of the many complex issues facing this government. It is a government in a constant state of denial.

Given our own experiences in this charter process, I urge you to keep the provisions for a meaningful role for local government in shaping the public policies of the region. Please do not jettison the MPAC, the evidence is clear that this check is needed on the powers of this government.

To each of you, I offer my best wishes. If I could be with you to the end of our project, I would. This has been a difficult undertaking, but I believe you are now close to a final resolution that will serve this region well. Good luck and God's speed.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Tobias  
Representative -  
Washington County Cities