

Mayor Taylor
Salem City Council
555 Liberty Street S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302

December 1, 2010

Re: Stormwater Utility Assessment

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Councilors:

Morningside Neighborhood Association would like to express support for the proposed stormwater utility assessment change that connects stormwater fees with stormwater impact.

We believe it is more equitable and logical to assess stormwater impact based on impervious surface area instead of domestic water use.

We understand these changes will impact commercial business owners, with some experiencing a decrease in fees and others experiencing an increase. While an increase in fees during this economic climate is unfortunate, in fair common sense, businesses that have a larger impact on the stormwater system should pay more than those who do not.

The proposed assessment also creates a financial incentive for property owners to reduce impervious area and treat stormwater onsite, reducing the negative impacts of untreated stormwater on our watersheds. An incentive such as this is critical for encouraging property owners to consider innovative stormwater management approaches during initial stages of development, or as opportunities emerge.

Thank you for your consideration and your work at improving Salem.

Respectfully,

Pamela Schmedling, President
Morningside Neighborhood Association
503-585-6641