



Mayor John Tory
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

January 25, 2017

Dear Mayor Tory,

My name is Scott Travers. As the president of The Society of Energy Professionals, a union with more than 2,000 members who live in Toronto and thousands more who work here, I am writing to urge you to stop the privatization of waste collection in District 4. Further privatizing waste collection is a poor decision from ethical, environmental and fiscal perspectives.

On moral grounds, the City of Toronto ought to be a leading example for other employers. Toronto should proudly model good jobs with decent pay, a pension and strong health and safety protections. Less than one year ago, the City agreed to exactly that when it signed a new collective agreement with CUPE Local 416, the union for solid waste collectors. There is no just reason to go back on that agreement now.

Another important consideration is the environment. On this score, the City of Toronto's own data shows that in comparison to the already privatized Districts 1 and 2, the waste diversion rate is better in the half of the city served by public waste collection. This is important because landfills are undesirable and expensive uses of space that we should minimize to the greatest degree possible.

Though ethical and environmental considerations should be enough to convince you to halt this privatization effort, there is also no business case for privatizing District 4. Both a 2015 staff report and an independent analysis from Ernst & Young for the City of Toronto found that there is no financial benefit to outsourcing any additional waste collection – and it may end up being more expensive.



Mayor Tory, my members and I are professionals. Among our ranks are engineers, lawyers and accountants. We look at the facts and make logical decisions. That is not so different from the reputation you seek for yourself. So I must tell you that in this case you are allowing politics to cloud reason. Rather than move forward on an ideological basis, I urge you to do what is right for the City and its workers: stop the privatization of waste collection in District 4.

Sincerely,

Scott Travers
President,
The Society of Energy Professionals