

February 3, 2015

**Halifax Regional Council**

City Hall

1841 Argyle Street, Main Floor

PO Box 1749

Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

To: Mayor Mike Savage and Halifax Councillors

Subject: No Increase in Costs to Business

Council's debate on solid waste changes has been a long and drawn out process. As proposed increases to commercial tipping fees have finally reached a public hearing we want to take this opportunity to remind Council of the Chamber's position on the proposed by-law changes.

Increasing commercial tipping fees from \$125 to \$170 is an increase of 36% and represents a significant increase in the cost of doing business in Halifax. One of the Chamber's two main priorities this year under our 2013-2018 Strategic Plan is reducing the tax burden and as such, we must continue to reiterate our opposition to this change.

We are encouraged that Mayor Savage has gone on the record to say that he does not support this increase in waste costs, and that he does not think Councillors will either. We trust that you will do the right thing -- and vote against this additional cost of doing business in our city.

We do believe that Council should explore its options beyond what is currently proposed. Allowing businesses to export their solid waste to other jurisdictions would allow businesses to potentially reduce their waste collection costs below current rates, while still using facilities with high environmental standards. Additionally, this would reduce the pressure on Halifax's existing Otter Lake facility.

We encourage Council to take our advice and help create a positive business environment in Halifax.

Sincerely,

Valerie Payn, President & CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce