



CITY OF

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# PORTLAND, OREGON

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Sam Adams, Commissioner**

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June 9, 2005

Mr. Lee Scott  
President and CEO  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
Bentonville, Arkansas 72716-8611

Dear Mr. Scott:

It has come to my attention that Wal-Mart is planning its first Supercenter in Portland, to be located at SE McLoughlin Boulevard and Tacoma Street. I write to express my strong opposition.

I have spent much of my time as a city commissioner advocating for the benefits of strong and successful businesses to our community. I have met with corporations and shopkeepers—businesses large and small—to hear their concerns. I have turned those concerns into action. I am no enemy of expansion, growth or profitable business—including “big box” stores appropriately located. However, I cannot and will not support this proposed store.

A successful local economy depends on a synergy created by small and large businesses. They are complimentary, supporting a diversity of jobs and incomes, prospering because of each other.

Yet a Wal-Mart Supercenter decimates this balance. As experience has shown, a Supercenter has drastic effects on a community: area grocery, clothing and merchandise stores close or scale back their operations; local newspapers—in which Wal-Mart does not advertise—decline due to lost ad revenue; increased traffic impacts neighborhoods; net jobs and income are lost. Wal-Mart prospers in spite of local and existing business—not in concert with them. How does this benefit our community?

Portland strives for a diverse economy, living wage jobs, safe neighborhoods, prosperous schools and a clean environment. These are the goals for which I was elected to pursue. I have seen little evidence that a Supercenter contributes to these goals.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I look forward to the dialogue our community will have as a result of Wal-Mart's plans.

Sincerely,

Sam Adams  
Commissioner of Public Utilities

City of Portland