

## **Letter to the Editor**

*Saturday June 19th, 2010*

*The Austin-American Statesman*

Greenstar would like to provide additional information that was inadvertently omitted from the 'Austin Residents Need to Understand the Facts of Recycling' op-ed.

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) recently proposed an initially "free" recycling program. It isn't free. The short-term option generates \$5.8 million for TDS at today's market prices, but offers no rebates for Austin. The long-term option produces rebates comparable to Austin's existing program, but Austin pays TDS its full operating costs plus 15% profit and fees - under any market conditions.

TDS is a landfill operator. In exchange for providing the initially "free" recycling program, TDS would require a 20 year extension on its landfill contract.

When the City was looking for a recycling partner, TDS had 10 years to invest in recycling under its existing landfill contract, but did not do so. TDS has no prior single stream processing experience and currently transports its recyclables to Greenstar. TDS would bring in outdated, used equipment for processing – resulting in more residue for landfill.

Another omission was a graph of historical commodity prices showing that Austin would have made money during the majority of the last five years with its existing recycling program.

