

John Hancock

City and County have been drawn into Airport's bunker of secrecy, into the same questionable legal crouch, hoping to avoid citizen scrutiny. Airport delayed and hid. City and County must not. Ambiguity and obfuscation is cowardly, and it makes me angry. The City and County's elected leaders asked us voters for their jobs. I insist that they bravely step up and out now, unlike the Airport's leaders.

City's new program of 1-cent water to go is an insult to common sense. The trouble is in the homes of the 900 families. That's where clean water must be delivered, with reasonable convenience for regular people, and extra help for people with strength limitations. We insist on clean water from faucets in our homes, not from portable plastic 48-pound jugs we drive to fill and load. We're not camping. Fairchild has delivered bottled water to many homes, for a long time, with generally OK reviews.

Communications with 900 families is poor so far, because it's hard:

- City and County water departments are starting from scratch in this new neighborhood.
- Matching the aquifer residents at the Courthouse could have occurred long ago.
- Many people don't yet understand what's happening.
- No government services map shows the boundary of the PFAS trouble. Any straight-line boundary is a guess and an excuse, for example, when the parties point fingers and argue about the source.
- Facebook reaches just some. County tax bills reach us in the mailbox just fine. There's no uncertainty there.
- Media releases are cheap and simple, not thorough.

This mess requires public meeting discussion by the parties, to which we're invited as listeners. That's "the consent of the governed". Without that, distrust is infectious. I ask for a very public listening session hosted by County and City, to Ecology specifications, with a certified mail invitation to all 900 families, providing a factual summary of the contamination situation at hand. I want coordination at the highest levels of government services, not just because Ecology says so. The Airport exempted itself from Public Health duty, since 2017. County and City must create a different strategy.