

Fred Gunther  
Fleet Services Manager

February 6, 2008

Dear Sir,

Your Operating Engineers are writing you this letter about the upcoming endloader replacement and the need for more endloaders in the fleet. We have heard that the City is planning to purchase 3 new endloaders a year for the next 3 years. This is a good idea, but, do not get rid of all 9 of the old endloaders. We have a desperate need to increase our endloader fleet size. Loosing 10 endloaders on this last sale has hurt our ability to service our own needs and provide necessary City services without relying too much on private endloaders.

This winter we did not have enough endloaders, at times up to 3 were out of service, a normal occurrence, and at times we went without on at least 8 occasions. At Lincoln, Ruby, and Central garages, we were forced to use backhoes and skidloaders for snow removal, or had nothing to use. We had to move snow to get to plows and to put plows down and had no endloader. We had to clean City Hall and almost had no endloader. We still needed to pick up leaves in December and had no extra endloaders. This lasted for a week and private endloaders had to be used at \$105 per hour worked with a City garbage packer with a leaf hopper. We hope we learned from this and will increase our endloader fleet by at least 5.

We also have a need for a few smaller endloaders, the type that do not have to get trailered to the job site. This is for use in Forestry for stumping and boulevard work. This machine could also have a flail or other attachments.

Far too often since the reorganization, our tractor equipment sits idle because of our on going problem with the sick, lame and lazy list. They can't fill garbage packers for garbage or snow plowing. This season we tried to fill 119 packer plow trucks and only got 39 people. Did anyone get disciplined? Instead of using Holders and Trackless for crossovers, angle parking and dead ends we use private endloaders at \$105 per hour. We only cost \$93 per hour and live in the City and know the streets. Use our equipment first. We did bus stops with private endloaders and 3 City loaders sat idle.

The Snow-Go machine went out on the viaducts to work and did an excellent job, Paul Navotny at DPW headquarters said he has been trying to get one for 6 years to no avail. What caused this? We need Snow-Go training for our operators before the last of our experienced operators retire. Our 2 "936" Caterpillar endloaders should be kept and/or rehabbed. If replaced, the 2 new units should have the proper hitch. This would allow them to use the 2 wing-front plows and the 2 snow-go's with that type of hitch. We'd like to bring up other issues.

The reliance of all new salters to only have D-ring front plows is a weakness. With plow damage and a limited number of D-ring plows, there are times when our front line salt/plow fleet runs out of front blades. Purchase some of the new salters with a Hustis plow and hitch.

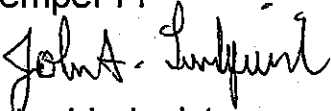
We do not have enough welders and mechanics to keep up with repairs, general welding or plow repair. We went from 14 welders to 5! We won the budget battle to fill three positions, got the money but – where are these new people? Also, we need more field service mechanics.

Our sidewalk fleet does not have enough plows. 15 plows have sat at CRS for 3 weeks, no parts. We were going to try to convert a holder V plow and a 7 ft plow to a trackless hitch, we can't, not enough welders to keep up.

Our street sweeping program, especially broom wash up has really gone down hill, The operator's are using 2 side brooms far too often and using 2 side brooms in alleys. Broom wash up is very poor and nothing is done to the operator that refuses to do a proper wash up. We should have more broom inspections and when mechanics complain about dirty brooms the operator should be dealt with. The discipline in the department since the reorganization is almost non-existent. If an employee won't come to work, won't do snow plowing, won't wash a broom, won't get with the program – do something about it!

As you see, there are issues we feel can be dealt with and problems solved. We would appreciate a sit down meeting at your earliest convenience to work on these issues. Also the yearly snow meeting between the City and it's workers should happen every year.

Semper Fi



John Lindquist

Local 139 Operating Engineers

cc: Mayor Barrett  
Common Council  
Gupta  
King