

RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING RATES FY 2014-15

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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Portland City Council
Testimony on Rate Proposal
05-22-14

Good afternoon Mayor Hales and Council Members. My name is Dave White. I am regional representative for the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association. In that position, I represent the Portland Haulers Association (which was formerly the Tri-County Council) which is made up of Portland's residential solid waste and recycling collection companies.

The Portland Haulers Association supports the rate ordinance that is before you today. As noted in the staff report, rates will stay flat or slightly decrease for 80% of Portland residential customers. We are proud that the report acknowledges that this is in large part due to the haulers' operating efficiencies. We also appreciate that the Portland Utility Review Board has recognized the haulers' efforts to contain costs and increase efficiencies.

The proposed rates implement a couple changes that we have been advocating for some time:

- The disincentive in the 60 and 90 gallon roll cart rates is decreased and the rates are slightly lowered. We think this is a move in the right direction. It will help customers subscribe for the service that meets their garbage disposal needs...and will thereby help reduce contamination in the recycling cart.
- The rate difference between the 32 gallon can and 35 gallon cart is reduced. This will provide an incentive for customers to subscribe to cart service which is more convenient for customers and safer for our workers.

Portland's residential haulers are committed to working in partnership with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to maintain and improve the city's solid waste, recycling and organics collection program. They are always looking for ways to increase their efficiency and contain their costs. And they are doing it in a way that allows them to achieve their goal of excellent customer service, sustainable results and operational safety.

Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions.