

**From:** [James Recycling](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Sept 29th council meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 4:38:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony Portland City Council.docx](#)

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Hello,

I've attached my written testimony for the September 29th council meeting regarding the BPS's proposal to amend code 17.102.

If there is anything else I need to do please let me know.

Thanks!

Kathi Goldman  
James' Neighborhood Recycling Service

I am in favor of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's proposal to amend Portland City Code 17.102.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to tell you about James' Neighborhood Recycling Service, a business that I founded with my son six years ago. James is 24 years old and is on the autistic spectrum. Since he was young, he's loved everything about garbage and recycling. Our neighborhood haulers were very patient with his never-ending questions and requests for photo opps with them and/or their trucks.

When James was 18 years old, we decided to start a door-to-door pick up service to collect items such as Styrofoam, scrap plastic and plastic bags from a few neighbors. We now service a little over 400 households in the Portland area, and with a small staff and a lot of dedicated volunteers, also hold community recycling collection events.

This business has provided James with a steady income and a job he loves. Not being able to continue working in Portland would be a huge blow to everything we've worked toward. James' source of income would be gone and so would his chance at filling his days doing something he loves.

We have always limited our pick up service to the city of Portland and respected haulers' franchises. We do not collect items that belong in curbside recycling bins. Haulers are like rock stars to James and are the inspiration behind our story. While we were doing pick ups recently, a hauler from across the street looked at James and pointed to a recycling bin overflowing with Styrofoam. James saluted the hauler and rescued that Styrofoam from the landfill. That pretty much says it all.

Kathi Goldman  
Co-founder of James' Neighborhood Recycling Service

**From:** [Kimberly Bergstrom](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Ridwell  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:36:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ridwell Portland City Council Support.pdf](#)

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Dear Portland City Council Members,

The attached comments from Active Children Portland are in support of the upcoming solid waste and recycling program code update coming before the Council on 9/29. Ridwell is an outstanding community partner and losing their Portland operations would impact much more than recycling services.

Thank you,  
Kimberly

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Kimberly Bergstrom  
She / Her  
Executive Director, Active Children Portland

Direct line: [503-278-5614](tel:503-278-5614)  
Office: [503-208-3415](tel:503-208-3415)  
Cell: [651-442-7378](tel:651-442-7378)  
[kimberly@acportland.org](mailto:kimberly@acportland.org)

Active Children Portland  
7831 SE Stark Street  
Suite 208  
Portland, OR 97215

**From:** [Alice Forbes](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of Amendment to Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Code before Council 09\_29\_21  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:43:59 AM

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Please see below comments in support of the upcoming solid waste and recycling program code update coming before Council on 9/29/21.

**Testimony in Support of the Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 17.102, Solid Waste and Recycling Collection  
From Schoolhouse Supplies  
September 28, 2021**

Schoolhouse Supplies is Portland-based nonprofit that provides free school supplies to children and teachers at the most under-resourced schools in the Portland Metro area.

**History**

In 1999 a local parent saw the potential in the reuse/recycle model for Portland’s public school children. She presented her idea of creating a “free store for teachers” to local businesses and organizations who supported the project. Through diligence, determination and a lot of hard work, her dream became a reality: in January 2000 Schoolhouse Supplies opened Portland’s first and only Free Store for Teachers.

In its first year of operation Schoolhouse Supplies distributed \$109,000 in supplies to eleven schools – twenty-two years later we have expanded our programs and have distributed over \$35M in free supplies across 75 school districts.

**Relevance**

The Free Store for Teachers remains the core of the mission. Businesses and individuals donate new, gently used, surplus and reclaimed product to stock the shelves of the Free Store. Outdated and surplus supplies are given new life in local classrooms, instead of being thrown to the landfills.

While Schoolhouse Supplies’ mission is to promote educational equity in local public schools, we continue to deliver that mission in a way that engages the community and keeps supplies out of the waste stream.

Schoolhouse Supplies depends on partnerships with local businesses and organizations to fulfill the mission.

**Support for the Code Amendment**

Schoolhouse Supplies has been honored to partner with Ridwell to not only spread the word

about Schoolhouse Supplies' mission and work, but to collect usable school supplies and classroom supplies and deliver them to our facility. Ridwell has facilitated a level of communication and product collection that Schoolhouse Supplies would not otherwise be able to achieve.

In addition, Ridwell's system for product collection means that all of those unwanted games and books, partial packages of pens and pencils, used notebooks and journals and other still useful supplies were kept separate from other waste. This system means less time and less expense for our nonprofit's volunteers to process the donations and get the supplies into the hands of local teachers and their students.

Ridwell has helped Schoolhouse Supplies achieve all three of our goals – to provide local school children with needed supplies, to engage the community, and to keep supplies out of the waste stream. We are happy to formally support this code amendment and hope more community based organizations can benefit.

Submitted by Alice Forbes, Executive Director, Schoolhouse Supplies September 28, 2021

**Alice Forbes**

Executive Director

Pronouns: she, her, hers

**Schoolhouse Supplies**

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[alice@schoolhousesupplies.org](mailto:alice@schoolhousesupplies.org)

[www.schoolhousesupplies.org](http://www.schoolhousesupplies.org)

**From:** [Jessica Levay](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#); [Taylor Loewen](#)  
**Subject:** Support from The Children's Book Bank of the solid waste and recycling program code update  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:00:35 AM

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Good Morning,

I am writing today in support of the upcoming solid waste and recycling program code update coming before Council tomorrow on 9/29/21.

The Children's Book Bank is a non-profit organization that has been serving Portland's most vulnerable and historically excluded communities for the last 12 years. Our mission is to provide every child in Portland with quality literature, ensuring that children have their own home library, and supporting early literacy skills.

Our mission would not be possible without donations of gently used children's books from our community. We were lucky to connect with Ridwell last year when donations were particularly low due to the pandemic. Since our partnership began, Ridwell has been able to collect thousands of books through their pick-up service, and deliver them to our warehouse in order for us to restore these books and put them back out into the community for those who need them most. In addition, as a community partner, Ridwell goes above and beyond a collection service by conducting a preliminary sorting of useable vs. unusable books before delivery that saves us valuable staff and volunteer time.

Without Ridwell, we would not have been able to serve our usual number of children last year, and now that we are returning to regular programming, our partnership with Ridwell has allowed us to expand our programming to serve even more children than year's prior.


Sustainability is a key value at The Children's Book Bank. Books are a difficult resource to recycle, and Ridwell provides an easy and essential service that allows thousands of books to end up in the hands of children in need rather than in landfill.

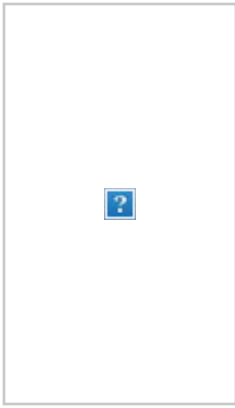
We encourage you to consider the children who may not receive books in the coming years if services like Ridwell are not able to continue their service of collecting materials such as books and providing them to non-profit organizations like ours.

We fully support the continuation of this service, and creating regulations that encourage other new services that support reuse and donations.

Regards,

Jessica Levay (she/her)  
Literacy Program Manager | The Children's Book





Bank

address: 1915 NE 7th Ave. Portland, OR 97212

site: www.childrensbookbank.org

email: jessica@childrensbookbank.org



**From:** [Jackie Kirouac-Fram](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Solid Waste and Recycling Code Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:48:23 AM

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Good morning Council members,

ReBuilding Center partnered with Ridwell in June 2021 to execute a community drive amongst their Members for gently used home repair tools, and it was a tremendous success! We received literally thousands of tools that we have already circulated back into the busy hands of our community – they’re being put to new use, rather than languishing unused or in a landfill. We look forward to partnering with them again in the future!

As an organization that exists to make reuse and repair accessible to all, ReBuilding Center fully supports the work that Ridwell does to connect their Members to community organizations that can reuse donated material. We hope you will take into account the reuse aspects of Ridwell’s work in our community and support policies that enable us to continue to work together to increase reuse and further a circular economy in the Portland region.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Kirouac-Fram

--

**Jackie Kirouac-Fram, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director  
([she/her](#))



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Portland, OR 97227  
Cell: 314.283.1766  
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**[Support our work by becoming a member!](#)**



**From:** [Jesse Miller](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Ridwell  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 12:58:22 PM

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Dear esteemed City Commissioners,

I'm reaching out to share a bit about our recent experience with the extraordinary services that Ridwell provides local nonprofits such as St. Johns Swapnplay. We had the pleasure of partnering with Ridwell this past summer to help further our mission: *to ease the burden on low- and moderate-income North Portland families by providing access to shared resources; and promote environmental and economic sustainability of the Portland metropolitan area through community sharing.* Ridwell delivered to us over 900 boxes each neatly sorted and filled with toys, games, clothing, baby gear, and so much more! These essential items that may have otherwise ended up as trash, now have a new life with the families we serve. We hope to continue to have a longstanding partnership with Ridwell, and is why we are in support of the upcoming solid waste and recycling program code update coming before Council on 9/29.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In community,

Jesse Miller  
|she, her, hers|  
Executive Director  
[St. Johns Swapnplay](#)  
[jesse@swapnplay.org](mailto:jesse@swapnplay.org)  
971-251-0074  
7535 N. Chicago Ave  
Portland, OR 97203

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**From:** [Jaylen Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 725  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 2:40:01 PM

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Hello,

I'd like to add some thoughts to the discussion about Ridwell being able to continue to operate in the city of Portland. I am a Master Recycler and have worked in the solid waste and recycling sector for nearly ten years. While recycling is a great alternative for some materials, it is not the best practice in the waste reduction hierarchy. It seems to me, the city of Portland and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability should put more resources toward educating residents about upstream costs of recycling and develop a robust campaign to encourage waste reduction. With the passage of SB 582 Recycling Modernization Act, I wonder if materials that most energize Portland residents to use Ridwell (i.e. plastic #1 clamshells) will become more widely recyclable and therefore able to be included in curbside recycling. Will SB 582 expand recycling for residents of Portland and if so, perhaps the City should focus on efforts to do that with the DEQ and Metro rather than relying on a private company to come in and potentially act in opposition to state recycling goals.

Speaking of #1 clamshells that Ridwell collects - is running trucks all over the city to collect this junk plastic to be yet again shipped via truck (diesel, I'm assuming) hundreds of miles to Southern California or to Mexico really a great climate outcome? How does this fit in to the Portland Climate Action Plan? What are the environmental impacts on the communities where these plastics are being recycled? What about the environmental impact of recycling that plastic - which can be turned into some sort of plastic item one more time before becoming trash? Does Ridwell have a transparency plan for the recycling they offer? Where do the fabrics go that they collect? Fabrics and textiles are notoriously difficult to recycle - what are the impacts of the end markets they utilize? These questions should not go unanswered.

The city of Portland has a reputation as a "green" city and went to great lengths to identify materials with stable markets to include in commingled curbside recycling over a decade ago. The upending of plastics markets in Asia threw Portland residents into a tizzy but it helped local governments focus on educating the public about the importance of "recycling right." And now, I believe, allowing a company like Ridwell to operate undermines the messaging the city of Portland and Metro regional government have spent years trying to get residents of the region to understand and act on. From my experience in talking with people about Ridwell, they don't understand why if Ridwell can take something it can't be recycled at the curb. I think we risk more distrust in government and renewed contamination of curbside recycling. The business model of Ridwell also presents equity issues in my

mind. Since it is a subscription based service, the message is being sent that to be a “good recycler and environmental steward” you need to have disposable income to spend \$12-15 per month to absolve yourself of your wasteful habits.

A recently featured item that Ridwell would pick up was paint. There was no messaging that paint is free to recycle in the state of Oregon and that there is a stewardship program for it that consumers are already paying for. Sure, there’s the convenience factor for customers - one less errand to run. However, the seeming lack of transparency or knowledge of the PaintCare program in Oregon feels dishonest. Also, what did Ridwell do with the paint once collected? Metro offers a paint recycling program right here in Portland - is the paint being diverted from that program or is Ridwell working in conjunction with Metro to get this paint to them? These are important questions that need to be asked and answered. Also, cooperative relationships with other government entities and local recyclers should be required of Ridwell if they are to operate in the city of Portland.

Judging from the number of my neighbors who use Ridwell, I am obviously in the minority but I find a lot wrong with this business model and actually question the benefits to the environment. I do think it would be great if the city could find a way to work with waste haulers to expand our recycling list that would more meet the needs and desires of the community but I am not convinced Ridwell is the answer. I firmly believe that if the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the city of Portland want to actually further sustainability, resource conservation and climate action efforts, then some life cycle analysis/environmental impact studies should be done on some of the materials (incandescent light bulbs? All shoes?) that Ridwell picks up to determine if this is really something you want to stand behind. At the very least, the City should require Ridwell to outline and report regularly on end markets for all materials picked up and the environmental impacts and/or benefits of their business.

Thank you for your time and for taking my thoughts and opinions into consideration.

Sincerely,

Jaylen Schmitt  
NE Portland  
97211

**From:** [Elizabeth Erickson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to Ridwell and other subscription services  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 2:40:55 PM

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Hello, I am submitting written testimony against the rule change proposed by BPS that would allow Ridwell, and others, to operate.

As a Master Recycler and grad student in Sustainability, I feel quite passionate and knowledgeable on the topic and also the climate, waste reduction, and recycling system improvement goals of our state and local governments. Changing rules to expand and allow for services like Ridwell are counter to many of these goals.

Some points:

Ridwell's lack of transparency. Where do clamshells and textiles really go? There are no stable markets for much if these materials collected by Ridwell. And, using our DEQs expertise on life cycle analysis, is it worth it?

The message is misleading: Ridwell customers are not reducing waste, only increasing the number of vehicles driving around collecting. And making purchasing of packaging validated because it can be recycled. Real positive impact on the environment, as Ridwell is claiming, comes from reducing the use of resources to make something to be used once or a bit more and then disposed of. Most of the materials collected by Ridwell can already be taken to community locations for recycling.

Statewide recycling modernization should standardize what can be recycled. Ridwell's efforts are counter to that, and create an unequal system for those without access.

Speaking of access: curbside recycling is standard and accessible to all Metro residents, of all incomes and housing (Read: multifamily).

Ridwell's services are a budget item some cannot/do not want to add.

Finally, our region needs to emphasize reduction in consumption over recycling. The hierarchy is legislated: reduce, reuse, then recycle.

Thank you,  
Liz Erickson  
NE Portland

**From:** [Rep Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support Agenda Item 725  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:35:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter from Rep Sanchez Regarding Agenda Item 725.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Please see the attached testimony supporting Agenda Item 725.

Sincerely,

Jon Pugsley  
Legislative Director



Tawna Sanchez

House District 43 – North and Northeast Portland

September 28, 2021

The Honorable Ted Wheeler  
The Honorable Carmen Rubio  
The Honorable Mingus Mapps  
The Honorable Jo Ann Hardesty  
The Honorable Dan Ryan

Dear Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler,

I write to you in support of Agenda Item 725, a new ordinance put forward by staff at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). The proposed law would create regulatory clarity around the pickup of recyclable materials by establishing an explicit exemption for hard to recycle items that are not part of the exclusive curbside garbage and recycling contracts the City has with garbage haulers.

The ordinance will not impact existing curbside garbage or recycling service in any way, but rather would help ensure that items not included in the curbside recycling program can be more easily reused or recycled is possible. If these hard to recycle items become part of the curbside service in the future, then they would no longer be included in the exemption. This proposed ordinance is the result of many months of work and outreach by the staff at BPS.

As a Portland resident I urge your support of this important measure that positively contributes to sustainable practices in our city. I would add that I've seen firsthand the value of these services in my own household, and I'm interested in exploring how we can expand availability across the state.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tawna Sanchez", written in a cursive style.

Tawna Sanchez

**From:** [Devin O'Leary](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Torres, Kellie \(Parks\)](#); [Bond, Mark](#); [Bradley, Derek](#); [Meyer, Katie](#); [Lyons, Adam](#); [Schoene, Jillian](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Schwartz, Mona](#); [Adams, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Ridwill  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:28:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-5s1z1uyw.png](#)

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I am writing to support Ridwill and their push for sensible legislature that allows Portlanders to recycle and reuse rather than adding to waste. Our organization diverts waste to supply affordable art supplies to low income artists and families. Organizations like Ridwill, which collect usable waste and bring it to us, aid in our operations.

**Devin O'Leary**  
**Site Director PDX**  
**SCRAP Creative Reuse**  
phone: (971) 420-8945  
scrapcreativereuse.org



*Portland, OR | Baltimore, MD | Richmond, VA | Ann Arbor, MI*

*Pronouns: he, his*

**From:** [Will Musser](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#)  
**Subject:** Testimonial on Code Sections 17.102.020 and 17.102.150  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:44:02 PM

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Good afternoon and thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Will Musser. My family and I have been Portland residents for just over two years. Currently, my primary responsibility is being homemaker/stay at home dad to our 2 school aged kids, but I also spend a considerable amount of time as a volunteer sustainability and climate change advocate, across all levels - locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally. My professional background includes time in the financial services and solar industries.

We've been impressed with the City's sustainability commitments since moving here. I am an ardent supporter of market solutions and innovative businesses like Ridwell that run a successful business model with a noble mission to address some of the challenges associated with our consumptive society, like reducing the amount of municipal solid waste via diversion for reuse and recycling. I am an advocate for creating a circular economy, with a particular focus on recycling those "forever" materials that often have negative environmental health impacts on the entire ecosystem.

The proposed ordinance would ensure that such materials, which are currently NOT in the curbside recycling program with contracted haulers, can continue to be more easily - and efficiently, from a trip miles transportation perspective – collected, reused, and recycled to help the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability and the City pursue its sustainability goals.

Ridwell identified a need community and created a business solution that filled a market gap that existed because the haulers declined to collect these materials. Additionally, Ridwell's service of picking up special items on a rotating basis specifically for the benefit of local community organizations is of tremendous value, promoting convenience, efficiency, and economies of scale for both households AND the organizations.

Passing this ordinance would provide clarification and protection for businesses like Ridwell to collect such "forever" or "hard to recycle" materials, as a valued and innovative business, and most importantly, would not impact or harm any current garbage or recycling haulers in any way. However, failing to pass this ordinance would jeopardize waste reduction and prevention, as well as the promotion of an innovative circular economy. Lastly, it would increase the number of trip miles by citizens to a hodgepodge of collection sites within the city of Portland, which is in direct conflict with the City's stated sustainability goals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Will

William M. Musser IV, PhD



C-303-549-0938

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<http://www.linkedin.com/in/williammmusseriv>

"I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been."

-Wayne Gretzky

"Carbon pricing is not 'one of the solutions' in the toolbox. Rather, it is the key to the toolbox, the 'solution-multiplier.'"

-Greg Hamra

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
725.1	Megan	Bulger	97211
725.2	William M.	Musser IV	97212
725.3	John	Ashcraft	97206
725.4	Jackie	Kirouac-Fram	97227
725.5	Taylor	Loewen	97217
725.6	Kari	McCullough	97229