



OREGON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

Testimony to Portland City Council Residential Solid Waste Collection Franchise Review August 3, 2017

Introduction

Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and Council Members, my name is Beth Vargas Duncan. I am the Regional Director for the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association. In that position, I represent the Portland Hauler's Association (PHA) whose members provide residential solid waste and recycling collection services within Portland. The PHA is a diverse group of hauling companies, that range from large publicly traded companies to small family and woman owned businesses. I appreciate the opportunity to provide brief comments on behalf of PHA regarding the City's franchise review resolution.

Residential Service and Goals

Portland haulers have a decades-long tradition of commitment to providing excellent collection service to Portland's residents. They are proud that their customers have historically rated the solid waste, recycling, and yard debris collection service they receive as among the best City programs and services. Considering the goals identified in the franchise review resolution including waste reduction and recovery, providing cost-effective rates, and developing a resilient and equitable system, Portland Haulers evidence their support of these goals by continually examining, improving, and investing in the system.

Franchise Renewal is Critical to Long Term Stability and Meeting the City's Goals

PHA haulers already helped the City meet goals.

- Food Waste - Portland haulers stepped-up with residential food waste recovery in 2011.
- Clean Fleet - PHA haulers committed to compliance with the City's Clean Fleet requirements.
 - Some exceeded requirements by buying natural gas trucks (\$25,000+ more than a diesel truck) and made huge investments in adding natural gas fueling stations.
- Automated Service & Roll Carts - PHA haulers have committed to purchasing residential roll carts for all customers to further increase efficiencies (reducing greenhouse gas emissions), streamline service, and promote worker safety.
 - PHA proposed a transition from cans to carts this summer to City staff; however an actual transition date has not yet been identified. PHA haulers are committed to work with staff for planned implementation soon.
- Developing an Equitable System – PHA members are committed to diversity and actively seek to do more. Some members hire workers and provide training for new employees to gain required certifications. Some advertise new positions to all their customers, inviting everyone to apply. PHA recognizes opportunities to improve and is currently discussing options such as employee education, expanding outreach to under represented neighborhoods, CDL & maintenance scholarships for minorities, and developing new relationships.

By approving the resolution before you today, the City begins the periodic review of the franchise system and evaluates its effectiveness in meeting City goals. Franchise renewal is critical to the long term stability as the haulers continuously make huge investments in the system. We believe that this partnership

between the City and its franchised haulers is a cost-effective and efficient system for providing outstanding solid waste, recycling and composting collection service with demonstrated sustainable results and consistent operational safety.

We look forward to working with City staff and the City Council on the franchise review process. We ask for your support of this resolution. I am happy to answer any questions.