

My name is Steve Brewer. I am the Director of Public Works in the Town of Raymond, NH.

I am here to provide testimony today that conveys current solid waste collection and disposal information for the Town of Raymond in hopes that it will bring to light the recycling disposal issue which impacts many communities in this State.

I commend those responsible for bringing this issue to the forefront for study and action.

Currently the Town provides a **Pay As You Throw** curbside collection program for trash and single stream recycling program for a population of just over 10,300 people.

In 2018 the curbside collection program annual tonnage figures were:

1643 tons of trash

912 tons of recycling

Recycling rate of 36%.

For 2019 the **projected** curbside collection program annual tonnage figures are:

Approximately 1470 tons of trash

Approximately 810 tons of recycling

Recycling rate of 36%.

Overall, the 2019 tonnage is trending 11% lower due to a change in the program which has resulted in portion of the households to turn to private services. Private services do not have a provision for recycling, so everything disposed of enters the trash stream.

Regarding the high cost of disposal for recycling.

Our contract ties the cost of recycling disposal to a blended rate for the current recycling commodities which is adjusted monthly.

In 2018 the **disposal of recyclables represented approximately 9% of the overall cost of our curbside collection program.**

In **January 2018** the cost of disposal was \$41.10 per ton

In **January 2019** we are paying \$98.60 per ton.

An increase of 140 %

In June of 2019 we paid \$113.21

An increase of 15% over 6 months

In 2018 we paid \$65,000 to dispose of 912 tons

**The trend for 2019 suggests that we will pay \$85,000 to dispose of 810 tons
31% more to dispose of 11% less.**

Anecdotally, we believe that glass containers account for a sizable portion of the recycling weight.

Shifting glass to an alternate stream would reduce the cost of recycling.

By definition, recyclables with low or no market value is trash.

Efforts to move these materials to the trash stream until the commodities markets return, will reduce the cost of recycling.

It will also accelerate the rate at which the current inventory of landfills reach capacity.

END

<>

Background Information

This spring, the Town of Raymond placed a Warrant Article on the Town Ballot offering the voters a choice regarding how to pay for the **Pay As You Throw** curbside collection program.

One Option continued the subsidizing of the program with tax dollars to keep bag prices low

The other involved shifting all cost to the price of the bag to relieve the tax burden.

The second option prevailed, and the bag prices were adjusted upward.

\$4.25 for a large bag up from \$2.35 80% increase

\$3.25 for a small bag up from \$1.80 80% increase

We continue to monitor the program looking for stability.

For 2019, we expect the cost of:

trash collection to increase slightly

trash disposal may drop slightly due to reduced tonnage

recyclable collection to increase slightly

recyclable disposal to increase by 30% +/- [\$20,000]