

EXHIBIT RM-18
DOCKET: TG-200083
RIDWELL INC. CARRIER CLASSIFICATION
WITNESS: RYAN METZGER

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING THE
PROPER CARRIER CLASSIFICATION OF:

No. TG-200083

RIDWELL, INC.

EIGHTEENTH EXHIBIT TO THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF RYAN METZGER
Support from Ridwell's Non-Profit Partners
ON BEHALF OF RIDWELL, INC.

May 5, 2020



Washington State Legislature

March 18, 2020

Chairman Dave Danner
Commissioner Ann Rendahl
Commissioner Jay Balasbas
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Chairman Danner and Commissioners Rendahl and Balasbas,

We have been made aware that you are evaluating the regulatory status of Ridwell with the UTC. We have met with Ridwell and their name comes up often from excited constituents. Some are users of their service sharing it with us, while others are hoping that Ridwell expands to provide service where they live.

We are impressed with the positive impact Ridwell is having that aligns with several of our legislative priorities:

- **Recycling and waste reduction:** last year Governor Inslee signed into law the [Sustainable Recycling Act of 2019](#) with bi-partisan support. This bill was designed to make Washington a leader in the next phase of recycling by reducing contamination in recycling streams and encouraging domestic processing. Without any government funding, Ridwell has made positive impacts in both areas by providing engaging, how-to-recycle content to over 19,000 people and by collecting and keeping from landfills over 170,000 pounds of materials (like thin plastics) that are not offered as part of curbside recycling services.
- **Climate change:** Because Ridwell offers an efficient way to transport categories to recycling and reuse partners that citizens often take on their own, they are reducing miles traveled by as much as 3x. Recycling is a great way to work against climate change by reducing the need for virgin materials and by preventing the release of methane gas that occurs in landfills. Ridwell represents a great example of a startup taking action and having an impact against this major threat we all face.
- **Creating jobs and encouraging innovation:** Ridwell employs 10 people in the Seattle area and is offering a new service, unique thus far to Washington. They expect to triple in size in the next 12 months and will create employment opportunities for people with diverse skills and backgrounds.

- **Economic Security:** Ridwell not only collects items for specialized recycling but also collects items that can be reused in local communities. They have worked with over 25 non-profit organizations to redistribute items to those in need. Past collections have featured winter coats, toys, books, kitchenware that have gone to homeless, low-income, and refugee populations in Washington.

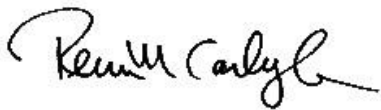
The excitement that customers have about Ridwell is exemplified by this quote from Karen of Mercer Island:

"I am amazed at how little "garbage" I produce when I am able to recycle, compost, and use Ridwell services to collect plastic film, batteries, light bulbs, fabric, and styrofoam. I am down to one bag of garbage per month for pick up. I also appreciate the "special" pickups that make use of things that tend to pile up and that I hate to put in a landfill - used glasses, holiday lights, etc - or that others in the community can use - pajamas, scarves, hats, toys. This is a great service and I have recommended it to many colleagues."

Given how much good Ridwell is doing for our state and that it strengthens rather than interferes with traditional garbage haulers, we respectfully ask that you find a regulatory path forward that allows Ridwell to continue to operate in Washington.

We appreciate you keeping us informed of your dealings with Ridwell in the months ahead.

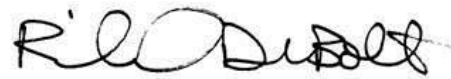
Sincerely,



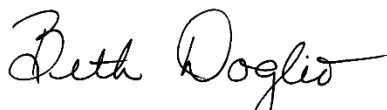
Senator Reuven Carlyle
36th Legislative District



Senator Mona Das
47th Legislative District



Representative Richard DeBolt
20th Legislative District



Representative Beth Doglio
22nd Legislative District



Representative Davina Duerr
1st Legislative District



Representative Jake Fey
27th Legislative District

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
34th Legislative District

Representative Noel Frame
36th Legislative District

Representative Debra Lekanoff
40th Legislative District

Senator Marko Liias
21st Legislative District

Senator Liz Lovelett
40th Legislative District

Representative Jared Mead
44th Legislative District

Senator Mark Mullet
5th Legislative District

Senator Joe Nguyen
34th Legislative District

Representative Strom Peterson
21st Legislative District

Senator Rebecca Saldaña
37th Legislative District

Representative Tana Senn
41st Legislative District

Representative Sharon Shewmake
42th Legislative District

Representative Vandana Slatter
48th Legislative District

Representative Norma Smith
10th Legislative District

Senator Derek Stanford
1st Legislative District

Representative Javier Valdez
46th Legislative District



March 5, 2020

Dear Chairman Danner and Commissioners Rendahl and Balasbas,

After meeting with Ridwell representatives, I am aware that you are evaluating their regulatory status with the UTC.

Please note that Ridwell's impacts align with certain legislative priorities:

- **Recycling and waste reduction:** last year Governor Inslee signed into law the [Sustainable Recycling Act of 2019](#) with bi-partisan support. This bill was designed to make Washington a leader in the next phase of recycling by reducing contamination in recycling streams and encouraging domestic processing. Without any government funding, Ridwell has made positive impacts in both areas by providing how-to-recycle content to over 19,000 people and by collecting and keeping from landfills over 170,000 pounds of materials (like thin plastics) that are not offered as part of curbside recycling services.
- **Climate change:** Because Ridwell offers a way to transport categories to recycling and reuse partners that citizens often take on their own, they are reducing miles traveled. Recycling is a way to address climate change by reducing the need for virgin materials and by preventing the release of methane gas that occurs in landfills.
- **Economic Security:** Ridwell not only collects items for specialized recycling but also collects items that can be reused in local communities. They have worked with over 25 non-profit organizations to redistribute items to those in need. Past collections have featured winter coats, toys, books, kitchenware that have gone to low-income people in Washington.

Given how this strengthens rather than interferes with traditional garbage haulers, I respectfully ask that you consider a regulatory path forward that allows Ridwell to continue to operate in Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Frank Chopp