

EXHIBIT RM-19  
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.

NINETEENTH EXHIBIT TO THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF RYAN METZGER  
Letter of Support from Sustainability Manager for City of Mercer Island  
ON BEHALF OF RIDWELL, INC.

May 5, 2020



**May 1, 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. Today, we understand that almost 230 of our Mercer Island residents use Ridwell to supplement the curbside options offered by our contracted hauler Recology. There has been a long history of public support for environmental measures here, and residents have been avid recyclers for several decades. The City believes Ridwell provides an important option for those wishing to achieve even higher levels of waste diversion. Here are three reasons why we appreciate having Ridwell in Mercer Island:

- **Ridwell is a strong community partner:** Ridwell has partnered with schools and community groups on the island and had tabled frequently at our popular Sunday Farmer's Market. Ridwell has helped educate people of all ages about actions we can all take to live more sustainably.
- **Ridwell helps with our sustainability goals:** Mercer Island has one of the highest diversion rates in King County at 65%. Keeping things out of landfills is important to our residents and we appreciate that Ridwell picks up categories that are not offered by Recology.
- **Ridwell promotes reuse:** Ridwell not only collects items for specialized recycling but also collects items that can be reused. Ridwell has worked with many non-profit regional organizations, including our own food pantry that provides non-perishable groceries to low income residents.

Given that Ridwell helps the City and its residents achieve important sustainability goals, and given its positive relationship with Recology, it's my belief that Ridwell strengthens rather than interferes with traditional garbage haulers. We support your finding a regulatory path forward that allows Ridwell to continue to operate here and elsewhere in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Freeman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ross Freeman  
Sustainability Manager  
City of Mercer Island  
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206-275-7662