

Tim Brownell

From: Jim Dumon <jdumon@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:12 PM
To: Tim Brownell
Subject: Republic Services Residential Recyclables Collection Expansion

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My name is Jim Dumon, and I am a resident of La Pine. I am writing to provide comments regarding the proposed expansion of Republic Services' recycling program.

I want to be clear that I support recycling efforts. My household already participates voluntarily by taking bottles and cans to local recycling stations here in La Pine, where we receive approximately \$20–\$30 per month for our efforts. Because of this, we do not see a need for additional mandatory recycling services.

There are also significant practical concerns related to this proposal, particularly for rural and senior residents. My home is approximately 300 feet from the street. It is already difficult to roll one barrel that distance, let alone two. I am 73 years old, and many of my neighbors are also seniors who face similar physical challenges.

In addition, La Pine averages roughly 90 inches of snow each year, with winter conditions lasting from mid-October through late April. Snow and ice make moving containers to the street even more difficult and, at times, unsafe. I am also concerned about where this proposal could lead. I have family in California who use Republic Services. They are required to use four separate barrels: one for household waste, one for bottles and cans, one for paper and cardboard, and one for green waste. They are charged for each container and fined for any misplaced recyclables. While the current proposal only includes one additional barrel, I worry this could expand into a similar mandatory system in the future. Another issue is misuse of containers. Because barrels are placed on the street weekly, people who do not receive Republic Services often place their refuse into others' containers. My family has experienced this in California, where residents are fined for improper sorting even when the contamination was caused by others.

Overall, this program risks making waste service unaffordable by shifting the burden of sorting recyclables onto residents while also charging them for the service.

Everyone in my neighborhood that I have spoken with is opposed to this proposal. We respectfully request that this recycling expansion not be applied to La Pine, or at a minimum, that residents be given the ability to opt out—especially due to age, physical limitations, rural distances, and winter conditions.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,
Jim Dumon
La Pine, Oregon
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