

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2022

Rachel Machi Wagoner  
Director  
CalRecycle  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Machi Wagoner,

I write today to express my concern regarding the significant increases in garbage collection rates being forced upon my constituents. I urge you to explore options that will lower these garbage collection fees and help ease the financial burden felt by my constituents.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Central Valley residents have fought to keep their heads above water as they have lost local jobs and closed businesses. My constituents have made repeated sacrifices to ensure their already stretched wallets can continue to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. While Senate Bill 1383 is an important step in addressing climate change, it is unacceptable that these huge increases in garbage collection rates are being pushed onto the individual without any form of assistance or relief from the state.<sup>1</sup> For residents in the unincorporated parts of Turlock, this means having to now pay \$53.64 a month for collection services, an increase of nearly \$30.<sup>2</sup> Folks in Denair, Empire, Hickman and La Grange will soon be paying \$51.91 a month, over \$25 more a month than their current rate.

These increases threaten the livelihood of many folks in my community, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck.<sup>3</sup> Further, the threat of fines for residents and businesses who do not comply is equally concerning and ignores the real-world hardships currently being felt by the Central Valley. I strongly urge you to prioritize finding a solution that will lower these garbage collection fees and relieve the financial burden placed on individuals by this statewide initiative in communities like mine.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Modesto Bee, [Huge rate increases coming to garbage service customers in Stanislaus County, 12/16/2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> Modesto Bee, [Huge rate increases coming to garbage service customers in Stanislaus County, 12/16/2021](#)

<sup>3</sup> Modesto Bee, [Life's 'real cost' exceeds income of 31% of Stanislaus families, United Way study shows, 8/31/2021](#)