

Taking Rubbish Away From Small Homes Amendment Act of 2023,
Bill 25-182

Before the
Committee on Public Works and Operations
Council of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Chairperson

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Comments of
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) on Bill 25-182, the Taking Rubbish Away From Small Homes Amendment Act of 2023 (Bill).

The Bill seeks to amend D.C. Official Code § 47-872, “to require the Chief Financial Officer to undertake a study of the solid waste tax credit deduction issued to owners of condominium living units or homeowners who pay for commercial solid waste collection services.” The OCFO is already planning to publish the percentage of estimated commercial trash collection cost covered by the condominium and cooperative trash collection real property tax credit. The OCFO’s Office of Revenue Analysis (ORA) plans to include this information in the Tax Expenditure Review for Environment, Public Safety, Transportation, and Tax Administration, and Equity Provisions, which is published on a cycle of approximately every five to seven years. It would be a burden on ORA to have a separate required study with a separate deadline.

The Bill, at Lines 55 through 56, references the “median cost of commercial solid waste services paid by a homeowner.” This phrasing is problematic because the OCFO does not have access to any data specific to condominiums and cooperatives. Instead of “the median cost,” ORA will be able to estimate the cost

of commercial trash collection using expense reports submitted to the Office of Tax and Revenue by apartment building owners. I have appended a proposed language change to these comments that would revise the wording in the bill to track data that is available to the OCFO. Accordingly, if the Council proposes to adjust the credit, the adjustment could be based on the information OCFO will already include in the tax expenditure review.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at (202) 727-3897 or Fitzroy.Lee@dc.gov.

Proposed Amendatory Language

Sec. 3. Section 47-872 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

* * * * *

(c) New subsection (f) is added to read as follows:

“(f) The Chief Financial Officer shall include in its periodic Tax Expenditure Review covering public works tax credits an analysis of the estimated percentage of the cost of waste collection services covered by the condominium and cooperative trash collection real property tax credit, including the median cost of commercial trash collection services reported to the Office of Tax and Revenue by apartment buildings filing mandatory income and expense reports.”