

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a Denver resident deeply concerned about our city's climate commitments. The success of the Waste No More ordinance is essential for reducing methane emissions from our local landfills.

Exempting smaller restaurants and events creates a massive loophole that contradicts our community's environmental goals. The foodservice industry generates over 20% of food waste annually. When my neighbors and I supported this ballot measure, we expected all businesses to participate in reducing waste that contributes to climate change.

Our city can be a leader in waste diversion, but only with comprehensive participation. Please eliminate these sweeping exemptions and honor the environmental vision our community voted for.

Thank you for prioritizing Denver's climate future.

Dear Councilmembers,

Denver has spent decades building toward comprehensive business waste diversion through multiple solid waste planning cycles. The systems are ready, stakeholders are prepared, and the community has expressed clear support through the ballot process.

This moment requires decisive leadership that honors community intent while ensuring effective implementation. Broad exemptions would delay progress and diminish the impact voters intended when they supported this measure.

Strong civic leadership means following through on community commitments with policies that achieve intended outcomes. Please vote for amendments that maintain comprehensive participation and deliver on the environmental progress Denver expects.

Thank you for civic leadership.

James Buongiorno

Creative Director / Flame Artist

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing to express my urgent and strong support for the proposed amendments to the Waste.No.More ordinance. These updates are crucial to achieving Denver's climate and waste diversion goals in a way that is both equitable and effective.

The proposed changes clarify implementation, streamline compliance, and provide thoughtful timelines and exemptions. However, I urge the Council to reject and eliminate blanket exemptions: for restaurants generating under \$2 million in revenue, events with under 1000 daily attendees, food banks, and the remodeling of Denver's oldest housing stock. Supporting small enterprises is important, but universal participation in waste diversion, especially for organics, is absolutely essential for reducing methane emissions. We must prioritize this initiative to progress toward a truly sustainable city.

Furthermore, blanket exemptions risk leaving behind large sectors of the community that still generate significant amounts of recyclable and compostable material. The foodservice industry, for instance, accounts for more than [20% of food waste](#) annually.

Instead, the City should allow temporary exemptions for businesses that create waste diversion plans but don't have reasonable access to diversion support. Since the 2022 vote, organics haulers have been scaling their hauling and processing capacity. While many restaurants are voluntarily joining early, many are waiting for you to vote on this mandate before examining what diversion will look like in their businesses.

It's also important to understand that Extended Producer Responsibility laws will provide small businesses with free recycling services by 2030. This will significantly reduce the costs for waste hauling and the size of landfill-bound waste bins. Through intentional practices, our communities can virtually eliminate landfill-only hauling with preferences for recycling and organics (compost) diversion.

Composting and organics diversion are not just critical strategies to reduce landfill use and methane emissions, while creating a more circular economy. In Denver's 10-year solid waste plans for the last 20 years, getting businesses to compost and recycle has been part of the plan.

I urge you to vote in favor of these amendments that eliminate sweeping exemptions. This will not only maintain the impact and intent of the original Waste.No.More Ballot Measure but also ensure that Denver's Solid Waste Diversion goals are met by holding the businesses accountable to make diversion accessible for all.

Personally I believe this is important because now more than ever, we need to make an environmental impact.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the importance of these amendments.

Sincerely,

--

Emily Stirling

Dear City Council Members,

Please support the waste no more amendments. Restaurants, any restaurant should not be exempt. Climate change is devastating Colorado through wildfires and all these things are connected. The immense amount of landfills from methane, an extremely harmful greenhouse house gas can be drastically reduced by giving this ordinance some “teeth” some enforcement so that businesses are held accountable. They are responsible for their waste and its impact on the climate. Help Denver lead the way in making the right moves to address climate change.

Thank you!

Alex Canlione

Reference #
15983263

Public Hearings

I am speaking/writing on (select one): / Hablo/Escribo sobre (seleccione uno):

25-0628: A bill for an ordinance concerning recycling and organic material diversion and, in connection therewith, repealing and re-enacting article X, chapter 48, adding a new article XI, chapter 48, adding a new article XV, chapter 10, and amending article I, chapter 24, of the Code.
/ Un proyecto de ordenanza relacionado con el reciclaje y la desviación de material orgánico y, en relación con ello, que deroga y vuelve a promulgar el artículo X, capítulo 48, añade un nuevo artículo XI, capítulo 48, añade un nuevo artículo XV, capítulo 10, y enmienda el artículo I, capítulo 24, del Código.

First Name / Nombre
Zhulieta

Last Name / Apellido
Stoyanova

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:
District 8 /Distrito 8

I am... / Estoy...
FOR the item / a FAVOR del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am writing because I care about the health and wellbeing of my community and the environment. Denver residents voted greatly in favor to expand composting and recycling services in the city and that needs to be honored. I am writing to you in hopes that you honor the desires of residents all over the city and keep the promise that apartment complexes and restaurants/businesses around town will be composting their food scraps. The original text already accounted for exemptions for businesses that need it, we don't need additional exemption for businesses to try to get out of doing the right thing for the planet and our health. Please help us enforce composting around Denver so we can all live a healthier and more sustainable life here in our beautiful city!

Thank you!

Finish Time

2025-09-08 09:43:05

Reference #
15979098

Public Hearings

I am speaking/writing on (select one): / Hablo/Escribo sobre (seleccione uno):

25-0628: A bill for an ordinance concerning recycling and organic material diversion and, in connection therewith, repealing and re-enacting article X, chapter 48, adding a new article XI, chapter 48, adding a new article XV, chapter 10, and amending article I, chapter 24, of the Code.
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First Name / Nombre

Taylor

Last Name / Apellido

Stubenrouch

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I don't know / No sé mi número de distrito

I am... / Estoy...

FOR the item / a FAVOR del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Hi, my name is Taylor, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of keeping Denver's composting requirements in place.

Composting matters deeply to me, and to our community. More tens of thousands of voters approved composting as part of Denver's sustainability plan. This was not a small effort, it was a clear statement from residents about the kind of future we want for our city.

Composting reduces waste, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and creates healthier soil for our community. Restaurants and households alike benefit from this system, and it is a critical step toward a more sustainable Denver.

Removing this requirement now would undo years of progress and disregard the voices of the people who demanded it. I urge you to respect the will of the voters and the community by keeping composting in place and ensuring Denver continues to lead on sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Taylor

Finish Time
2025-09-05 17:37:07

Reference #

15978737

Public Hearings

I am speaking/writing on (select one): / Hablo/Escribo sobre (seleccione uno):

25-0628: A bill for an ordinance concerning recycling and organic material diversion and, in connection therewith, repealing and re-enacting article X, chapter 48, adding a new article XI, chapter 48, adding a new article XV, chapter 10, and amending article I, chapter 24, of the Code.

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First Name / Nombre

Hilarie

Last Name / Apellido

Portell

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

District 6 / Distrito 6

I am... / Estoy...

FOR the item / a FAVOR del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Honorable Members of Denver City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Colfax Mayfair Business Improvement District (BID) to express our strong support for the small restaurant exemption included in Bill 25-0628, related to the Denver Waste No More Ordinance.

The Colfax Mayfair BID represents over 200 businesses and property owners in our district, spanning East Colfax Avenue from Eudora Street to Monaco Parkway, as well as the Mayfair Town Center at 14th and Krameria Streets. Our mission is to enhance the area for both residents and businesses through initiatives focused on economic development, public improvements, public safety, and advocacy.

Small businesses, and locally owned restaurants in particular, face mounting challenges in Denver. In addition to rising taxes, material costs, labor expenses, utility fees, and insurance premiums, the uncertain economic climate continues to place pressure on these

establishments. Our district is home to 18 locally owned restaurants, many of which are struggling due to the broader economic downturn and changing consumer habits. Since 2019, Denver has seen a 22% reduction in the number of restaurants, while labor costs have risen by 65%. Locally owned restaurants all along the Colfax Avenue corridor are also dealing with the disruption caused by large-scale construction for the Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. This combination of rising costs and infrastructure challenges places immense strain on our local dining spots.

The exemption outlined in Bill 25-0628 specifically targets only 16% of Denver's restaurants, and it is crucial for sustaining the small, community-based establishments that anchor our neighborhoods. These restaurants are not just places to eat; they are the heart of our communities, the gathering spots where neighbors connect, celebrate, and strengthen the fabric of our neighborhoods. Across every Denver Area Plan, residents have expressed a desire to support and grow locally owned restaurants—these are the businesses that make our main streets vibrant and inviting.

However, main streets do not thrive on their own. They require deliberate support, advocacy, and action. The small restaurant exemption in Bill 25-0628 represents a vital opportunity to provide the necessary relief to these businesses, which are cornerstones of the Colfax Mayfair community and beyond.

For these reasons, we strongly urge your support of the small restaurant exemption in Bill 25-0628, and we appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Hilarie Portell, Executive Director
Colfax Mayfair Business Improvement District

Finish Time

2025-09-05 15:07:04

To Whom It May Concern,

Compost Colorado joins the historic chorus of Denver voters and community leaders urging Denver City Council to pass Waste No More and approve the proposed amendments that remove pre-exemptions for certain businesses to comply with its requirements.

These amendments are a measured compromise that allow small businesses to file for exemptions, while preserving the spirit of the requirement in the ordinance, and encouraging in every meaningful way the thoughtful reduction of waste in our most wasteful industries. We know deep down - this is one of the great moral and political imperatives of our time. Our future demands it.

Find attached our written statement in support of the amendments proposed 9/8, and the final vote on 8/15. We will look forward to attending public comment Monday.

Best,

Noah Kaplan

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a Denver resident deeply concerned about our city's climate commitments. The success of the Waste No More ordinance is essential for reducing methane emissions from our local landfills. DENVER VOTERS ALREADY APPROVED THIS. DO NOT let it be weakened by industry.

Exempting smaller restaurants and events creates a massive loophole that contradicts our community's environmental goals. The foodservice industry generates over 20% of food waste annually. When my neighbors and I supported this ballot measure, we expected all businesses to participate in reducing waste that contributes to climate change.

Our city can be a leader in waste diversion, but only with comprehensive participation. Please eliminate these sweeping exemptions and honor the environmental vision our community voted for.

Thank you for prioritizing Denver's climate future.

Ryan Crespin

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Dear Councilmembers,

Denver's climate leadership depends on comprehensive waste diversion that includes all significant waste generators. Organic waste in landfills is a major source of methane emissions, making universal participation in composting programs essential for meaningful environmental impact.

The foodservice sector alone accounts for over 20% of annual food waste. Exempting businesses based solely on revenue thresholds ignores the environmental impact of their waste streams and undermines the climate benefits this ordinance is designed to achieve.

Environmental effectiveness requires participation from all waste generators, supported by appropriate infrastructure and assistance programs. Please prioritize climate impact over convenience exemptions.

Thank you for environmental leadership.

Sent from my iPhone

Sarah Rounsifer <s.rounsifer@icloud.com>

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a Denver resident who strongly supports the proposed amendments to the Waste No More ordinance. These updates will help our city achieve crucial waste diversion goals while clarifying implementation for local businesses.

However, I urge you to support amendments that remove blanket exemptions for restaurants generating under \$2 million in revenue, events with under 1000 daily attendees, food banks, and remodeling projects. As a voter who supported the original ballot measure, I believe these exemptions would undermine what we intended to accomplish.

Instead, please allow temporary exemptions only for businesses that create waste diversion plans but genuinely lack access to diversion services. Our community deserves universal participation in this important environmental initiative.

Thank you for representing our environmental values.

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Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a Denver resident who has been watching our city work toward comprehensive waste diversion for years. The infrastructure is finally ready, local haulers have scaled their capacity, and businesses are prepared to act.

This is the moment we've been building toward. Delayed implementation through broad exemptions will waste the momentum our community has created and set back progress on goals we've been pursuing for decades.

As your constituent, I urge you to act decisively. Please vote for amendments that eliminate sweeping exemptions and move Denver forward on the environmental commitments we've made together.

Thank you for decisive leadership.

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Renee Fine

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Mikey Fishbone <mikeyfishbone@gmail.com>

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Thank you for prioritizing Denver's climate future.

Marie Skubon

Dear Councilmembers,

Denver's waste diversion infrastructure has been developing in anticipation of comprehensive business participation in the Waste No More program. Organics haulers have scaled capacity, and Extended Producer Responsibility laws will provide free recycling services by 2030.

Many businesses are positioned to participate but are waiting for policy certainty before making infrastructure investments. Broad exemptions delay market development and waste the preparation already undertaken by both businesses and service providers.

Comprehensive implementation will accelerate the development of cost-effective diversion systems that benefit all participants. Please maintain universal participation requirements to support effective market development.

Thank you for supporting systematic implementation.

ricciardi.kristen@gmail.com

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salzman_katelyn@hotmail.com