



October 8, 2025

Chuck Wemple
Executive Director
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Wemple,

I support the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) application to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Solid Waste Management Grant Program for Recycle Right Houston: A Cart Tagging Initiative to Improve Recycling Quality.

The City of Houston's recycling program currently serves more than 400,000 households. However, contamination in the recycling stream has increased to approximately 46%, reducing efficiency and increasing disposal costs. This cart tagging initiative addresses those challenges by providing residents with immediate feedback on recycling practices, reducing contamination, and improving the overall quality of materials collected.

The project builds on the successful 2021 H-GAC-funded pilot conducted in partnership with The Recycling Partnership, which achieved a 41% reduction in contamination among participating households. Expanding this effort citywide will allow SWMD to engage residents across all recycling routes, deliver targeted recycling education, and gather new data to guide future outreach and policy.

This program aligns with the state's broader sustainability goals by reducing landfill disposal costs through cleaner recycling streams and strengthening sustainable growth. Supporting this program ensures a regional-wide approach to educating the public on how recycling impacts their landfill assets.

Thank you for your consideration,

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLIE ALCORN, AT-LARGE 5