



Containerized Solid Waste Removal  
Compactor Sales and Service  
Recycling Services

4/12/2018

Mayor Jonathan Mitchell  
City Hall – Mayor’s Office  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: The City’s Recycling Collection

Dear Mayor Mitchell,

This letter serves as formal notification that ABC Disposal Service, Inc. (ABC) may not be financially able to continue to provide curbside collection of single stream recyclables (SSR) for the City of New Bedford beginning July 1, 2018 without contributions from the City supporting the new unanticipated costs to have recyclables processed. China’s National Sword has made it financially impossible for ABC to continue to service the recycling requirements of the contract. This does not impact the collection of curbside trash collection or other parts of the contract.

ABC has sustained significant financial losses over the last six months that have pushed the company towards pending insolvency. These uncontrollable losses are not sustainable if ABC wants to remain a viable company. As a family owned business for over 50 years, ABC is determined to maintain its integrity and dependability to our communities, but are faced with the hard decisions in order to continue to provide excellent service. ABC has been in contact with its bankruptcy attorneys and may be forced to file another Chapter 11 reorganization.

Right now 75% of what is placed in recycling carts has a negative number. This means that these recyclable materials that have always had a positive value are now either going out for disposal or at an extremely high cost. In today’s market, most of these materials are being sent for disposal or stockpiled with no open viable markets available. ABC can no longer continue to pay the high cost of processing recyclables when so much of what is now being placed in recycling carts is being sent out for disposal.

The actions by the Communist Country of China (China’s National Sword) have seriously derailed every SSR program across the country and has driven up the cost to process recyclables to a point where it now exceeds the cost of disposal for trash. Waste industry leaders as well as all the recycling trade groups across the country could not have anticipated the severe and unprecedented actions by China.

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What is so very frustrating is that all indications from these waste industry leaders and trade groups regarding this situation shows no light at the end of this tunnel.

China is working hard on developing recycling programs and are building Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's) so that they can be self-sustaining. They want to be out of the world recycling market and have their own system of capturing recyclables out of their waste stream to feed their manufacturing facilities. The United States as a country can no longer depend on China to accept our materials and needs to solve its own recycling problems. This is a long term problem with no reasonable short term solution.

Michael Camara as well as several other regional waste industry leaders met with Mass DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg and his staff on Tuesday March 27, 2018 to discuss this situation from an industry perspective and in an effort to convince them that they need to take immediate action to remove glass, mixed paper and #3 - #7 plastics from the list of Massachusetts mandated waste ban items. Industry leaders asked why these items should remain on the list when the market for them is non-existent. Such leaders also asked Commissioner Suuberg and the DEP to work on long term solutions on this issue. Points addressed to the Mass DEP were to try and source out manufacturing companies that could process our recyclables and help them build facilities in Massachusetts. Help these companies with incentives like tax increment financing, tax credits for employee training, low interest loans, etc.

In closing ABC has sent this notice in a timely fashion to give your community the opportunity to negotiate a mutual beneficial solution with ABC or give you the opportunity to contract with another hauler for the curbside collection of SSR. ABC is expecting to collect or negotiate in good faith all Recyclable Recovery Charges that have been billed to date. Please remember that we are not responsible for creating this situation but unfortunately we're the ones suffering because it. Thank you for your consideration of this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

**The Camara Family**

Laurinda F. Camara	Michael A. Camara
Steven A. Camara	Kenneth J. Camara
Susan M. Sebastiao	

CC: Kenneth Blanchard  
Ari Sky