

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Eric Olauson - Tax Policy
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:21:50 AM
Attachments: [Westfreight Systems Letter to Council.pdf](#)

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Thursday, April 17, 2025 - 11:21

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Eric

Last Name: Olauson

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: O-LAW-SON

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: 3550 Idylwyld Dr N

Ward: Ward 5

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Westfreight Systems

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.5.2

Comments:

I am writing to strongly urge Council to reconsider a commercial-to-residential tax ratio of 1.88:1. There are other, lower options presented to Council that would better reflect a better balance for the businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.

Attachments:

[Westfreight Systems Letter to Council.pdf](#) 173.92 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/106427



Dear Mayor Block and Members of Saskatoon City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge Council to reconsider a commercial-to-residential tax ratio of 1.88:1. There are other, lower options presented to Council that would better reflect a better balance for the businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.

I would also like to respond directly to Councillor Jeffries' comment on the March 26 Council Meeting that he has not heard any concerns from Saskatoon businesses regarding the 1.88:1 ratio. As a business operating in Saskatoon, I want to be clear: we are deeply concerned.

The current environment is extremely challenging for local businesses. We are contending with:

- US tariffs that affect our export capacity and raise the costs of goods.
- Inflation that has driven up the cost of everything from raw materials to wages.
- Tight and shrinking profit margins as we try to stay competitive.
- Ongoing pandemic recovery, which continues to impact staffing, supply chains, and demand.
- Rising crime, including theft and vandalism, that adds to our operating costs.
- A shrinking labour pool, with both skilled and unskilled workers in short supply.
- And limited connectivity and business opportunity compared to larger Western Canadian cities with better infrastructure and amenities.

We don't have the same advantages as Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg or Vancouver in terms of market access, population size, international airport traffic, or amenities that attract and retain talent. What we can offer is a tax environment that signals to businesses that we are welcome here, that Saskatoon wants us to succeed. I urge you to reconsider the 1.88:1 tax ratio and listen to the many business voices across this city who are speaking up—right now—with real concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Olason".

Eric Olason
Director of Operations
3550 Idylwyld Drive North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 6G3

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