



Gavin Kreidler

National Waste and Recycling Association

House Energy and Environment Committee

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Mr. Chairman, members of the House Energy and Environment Committee, I stand before you today to express our support of HB 2535. The National Waste and Recycling Association is made up of members from all across the State who come together to ensure Kansas stays a clean and beautiful place to live and do business. Homeowners, unsure of how to safely dispose of needles or “sharps”, and although well meaning do not realize the burden they put on our industry. Often, individuals are instructed to place the needles in a plastic container, like a detergent bottle, and it is then placed in the recycling collection cart rather than the trash. As the plastic bottle containing sharps moves thru the recycling plant, often it becomes broken, spilling the sharps onto the conveyer belt system. The result as soon as a sharp is located in the sorting process, our whole facility shuts down as our employees have to put on special protective gear (i.e. gloves) and to remove the needles. This, of course costs both time and labor but most importantly, it is a SAFETY Issue for our employees. Ensuring the safety of our employees is paramount for our industry. With the passage of HB 2535 our hopes will be that individuals who use sharps for medical treatment will use one of the many pick up or drop off opportunities or simply discard them with their regular trash. With more people utilizing those services we can ensure our employees have a safe working environment. Thank you for your time today, and we urge that you pass out HB 2535 favorably.



