



National Waste & Recycling Association

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Mike Petersen, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Transportation
Statehouse, Room 345-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Support for SB 94 – Slow Down to Get Around.

My name is Patrick Vogelsberg and I am here today on behalf of the Kansas Chapter of the National Waste & Recycling Association. Our association is an industry and statewide trade group representing the waste services and environmental industry which provides valuable and sound environmental services to Kansans. On behalf of our members, I am happy to appear before you today in support of SB 94.

Solid waste collection is one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States. According to federal safety data, solid waste collection employees have the 5th highest fatality rate of any job in the country. And, a leading cause of these tragic deaths is when motorists crash into these workers on the street. These workers are someone's spouse, parent, sibling or child. For our industry, nothing is as important than making sure all workers go home to their loved ones every single day.

To address this worker safety hazard, NWRA developed the Slow Down to Get Around program to educate motorists and our employees about how to prevent the most common incidents that pose serious threats to waste and recycling workers. Because these incidents occur frequently, NWRA is asking state legislatures to enact Slow Down to Get Around laws that provide new or increased penalties for drivers who drive unsafely around refuse or recycling vehicles. So far, Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and West Virginia have enacted such laws over the past few years.

SB 94 is part of NW&RA's national effort to pass "Slow Down and Move Around" legislation. SB 94 would require a driver of a vehicle to slow down to 15 mph when the posted speed limit is 40 mph or below before overtaking and passing a

collection vehicle. For streets or highways with a posted speed limit of 40 mph or higher, the driver would need to decrease speed by 10 mph before overtaking and passing. Further, when possible, a driver would need to change into a lane that is not adjacent to the waste collection vehicle. The bill would establish a \$105 fine if the driver fails to reduce speed and that fine would be double if the driver caused serious injury or death to a worker.

On behalf of NWRA, I ask for your support of SB 94 and join with the other states that have passed this important legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 94. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Vogelsberg
Lobbyist
NWRA – Kansas Chapter