



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.

WCA is a solid waste collection and disposal company operating in southeast Kansas. We are a member of the Kansas Chapter of the National Waste & Recycling Association and I'm writing this letter in support of SB 94 – "Slow Down to Get Around".

Solid waste collection continues to be one of the most dangerous jobs in the US. A leading cause that makes this job dangerous is employees being struck by motorists when they are in the streets and right of ways collecting solid waste and recyclables. Our industry continues to strive to make this industry safer by automation however employees are still required to get out of the trucks.

To address worker safety the National Waste & Recycling Association developed the "Slow Down to Get Around" program to educate motorists and our employees about how to prevent waste and recycling employees from being struck. Our association has been successful in getting similar legislation passed in several states including Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KOB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin O'Brien

Regional Vice President

Waste Corporation of Kansas, Inc.