



February 10, 2015

The Honorable Mike Petersen, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Statehouse Room 345-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: **Senate Bill 94**
Unlawful Passing of a Waste Collector

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 94. Waste Management of Kansas provides residential, commercial, and industrial waste and recycling collection in several communities in Kansas, including the Topeka and Wichita areas.

Waste Management of Kansas strives to provide the safest environment possible for our employees by adopting a culture that safety and the health of our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve is paramount.

It is not uncommon for today's drivers to be distracted as they rush to get to work or school. Many drivers are distracted due to mobile phone use or texting while driving. Unfortunately, distracted or careless drivers are a leading and growing contributor to drivers crashing into stopped collection vehicles. Waste and recycling collection employees have one of the highest worker fatality rates in the United States.

Due to the increase of frequency of these types of accidents, Waste Management of Kansas joins our trade association, National Waste & Recycling Association in supporting Senate Bill 94.

Senate Bill 94 will require drivers to reduce their speed at least 10 -15 MPH before approaching within 100 feet and overtaking a motor vehicle that is stopped and engaged in the collection of solid waste, recyclables, or yard waste on any street or highway under described circumstances. The bill also requires drivers, if traveling on at least two-lane roadways that carry traffic in the same direction and safe weather or traffic conditions permitting, to change lanes not adjacent to the collection motor vehicle. In addition, the legislation establishes penalties for failure to comply with these requirements.

We believe Senate Bill 94 may help reduce the fatality rate of collection employees, as a leading cause of these deaths is when motorists crash into these workers on the street. These workers are someone's spouse, parent, sibling or child. For our company and industry, nothing is more important than making sure our employees go home to their loved ones every single day.

We respectfully request your support of this important legislation and ask for your "yes" vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 94 and for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely on behalf of Waste Management of Kansas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Grochowski'.

Rick Grochowski
Area Safety Manager

Cc: Steve Kearney