



QUARRIES
CONSTRUCTION
ASPHALT
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Testimony

BEFORE: Senate Transportation Committee
BY: Charles Sedlock, Director, Hamm, Inc.
DATE: January 25, 2017
RE: SB 272 – Slow Down To Get Around

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlie Sedlock. I am currently a Director of Waste Services for Hamm, Inc. Additionally, I serve as Chairman of the Kansas Chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today with our comments in support of SB 272.

For the past 30 years, Hamm Waste Services has served the waste disposal and recycling needs of fifteen Kansas Counties including Brown, Dickinson, Douglas, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Jewell, Marshall, Osage, Jackson, Geary, Pottawatomie, Riley, and Washington counties. Our services include waste transfer, transport, collection, recycling and disposal.

To echo the members of the Kansas Chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, SB 272 is about the SAFETY and the importance in reminding motorists to drive more carefully when near waste and recycling collection vehicles. Deaths by motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of fatalities for sanitation workers. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of fatality and injury rates for waste and recycling employees was reduced by more than 40%. This was due to a great deal of hard work on the part of the industry to promote safety among its own. In 2004 the National Waste and Recycling Association began promoting slow down to get around programs to promote public awareness of the dangers associated with stationary collection vehicles. These programs have been supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Unfortunately, in 2010, 2011 and 2012, fatality and injury rates have begun to increase over previous years. At this time, waste collection employees have the 5th highest fatality rate of all occupations.

Our drivers start their day before the sunrises, anywhere from midnight to 6:00am –some are with us in the audience today. Day in day out, our drivers service ensure that waste is collected and handled in an environmentally safe manner in our region of Kansas. Many times on collection routes, impatient drivers who disregard a waste collection truck's flashing, yellow caution lights and endanger the crew. It is not uncommon for drivers to speed around the truck, sometimes missing the crew members by only a few feet.

Keeping our drivers and employees safe is a priority for Hamm every day of the year. With the passage of SB 272 *Slow Down to Get Around*, this will help us accomplish this a bit easier.

Thank you.