



Good Morning, Mr. Chairman Mike Petersen and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Kyle Kukuk with Blackstone Environmental, Inc.

Blackstone Environmental is a consulting firm comprised of engineers, hydrogeologist, and scientists specializing in many environmental and engineering fields including Solid Waste and Landfill Services, Environmental Assessment and Design, Civil Engineering, Energy Sector, Natural Resources Planning and Permitting, and Regulatory Compliance.

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 5<sup>th</sup> highest fatality rate of all occupations.

It is no doubt that these increases are due in part to distracted driving. I am sure you appreciate the repercussions of distracted driving, which include texting while driving, cell phone use, navigation systems, etc.

Our drivers start their day before the sunrises, anywhere from midnight to 2:00am. Weekly, our industry drivers service every residential and commercial location across the state and numerous industrial customers.

Many times, when our drivers are on their routes, especially their rural routes, they experience the danger of impatient drivers who disregard our collection truck's flashing, yellow caution lights. Drivers will speed around the truck, sometimes missing our driver by only a few feet.

Keeping our drivers safe is a priority for Blackstone Environmental, Inc. 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Kukuk'.

Kyle Kukuk  
Blackstone Environmental, Inc.