



**Ohio House
Committee Government Oversight and Accountability Committee
SB 127, Slow Down to Get Around
Testimony of Kathy Trent, Chapter Chair
National Waste & Recycling Association
February 7, 2018**

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and Members of the Committee, I am Kathy Trent, Director of Government Affairs for Waste Management and Chapter Chair of the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA). I am speaking on behalf of both Waste Management and the NWRA today. I would like to convey our support for SB 127, sponsored by Senators LaRose, Beagle, Gardner, Manning, Hottinger, Yuko and Hite. This issue has also been introduced as HB 144 by Representatives Green and Rogers. The NWRA Ohio Chapter represents the private solid waste and recycling industry in Ohio and Waste Management of Ohio provides direct waste collection and recycling services throughout Ohio and the nation. Safety for our employees and for the community members we serve in Ohio is our single highest priority.

Every day our member companies have employees on the streets of Ohio collecting solid waste from residents and businesses. A solid waste collection vehicle may literally stop by the side of the road 600 – 900 times a day. While the truck is stopped, both the truck and most importantly our employees, in the case where one of our people is out of the truck, are in danger that someone will crash into the employee and/or the truck.

In its current form, ORC 4511.213 requires that the driver of a motor vehicle, when approaching a stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, a PUCO vehicle conducting an inspection or a highway maintenance vehicle to either change lanes or proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle and maintain a safe speed. *SB 127 would extend these protections to waste collection vehicles.*

Due to the nature of solid waste collection, I think it is safe to say that waste collection vehicles are stopped at the side of the road or on the road as much, if not more than, any of the previously listed vehicles that are currently covered under ORC 4511.213. In addition, as noted above our employees are often at the back of a truck in the most vulnerable position possible – between the truck and on-coming traffic. It only takes one distracted driver, one driver in a hurry or some other unfortunate circumstance to cost our employee their life.

We have had drivers crush driver feet, tear off mirrors, cut right in front of a truck turning. Over the last year our drivers report distracted driving by others on the road has increased. HB 127 is an effort to help support safety for our workers.

Sixteen states have already passed similar legislation including Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, New York, Kentucky, and West Virginia enacted similar laws recently. Please support SB 127. I have attached some flyers for your information. Further, my colleagues would like to share some of their experiences in support of SB 127. I would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions you may have.