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Ohio Senate

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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 127
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
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Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, members of the Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 127. This legislation will require drivers to move over or proceed with caution when approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting garbage on a roadside.

Ohio currently offers move over protection to emergency, road safety, tow trucks, power, phone, gas and utility company vehicles. Without question, sanitation workers spend as much, if not more, time on roadways than any other profession currently protected by Ohio law. This legislation would require that drivers proceed with caution or move over to another lane when they are approaching a sanitation vehicle at work.

Between 2000 and 2009 motor vehicle accidents were the number one cause of death for sanitation workers. Because of this, the National Waste & Recycling Association began the Slow Down To Get Around Campaign in 2004. Their intention was to inform the public about sanitation worker safety with the hope that drivers would begin taking caution when approaching a sanitation vehicle. Because of the association's work, the number of fatalities began to reduce dramatically. Unfortunately, in 2010 the number of sanitation workers killed on roadways began to climb, in part due an increased number of distracted drivers.

Ohio would be joining many other states that have enacted move over protections for sanitation workers. I worked with Ohio-based Company, Kimble Recycling & Disposal to ensure Ohio is being proactive with this change rather than waiting for further tragedies to strike. This legislation is supported by the National Waste & Recycling Association as well as several local waste and recycling companies. Similar legislation passed the Ohio House of Representatives with unanimous support last general assembly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.