



**Ohio Senate
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
SB 127, Slow Down to Get Around
Statement of Support of Don Johnson, Chapter President
September 19, 2017**

On behalf of the Buckeye Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), I write to convey our support for SB 127 offered by Senators LaRose for the *Slow Down to Get Around* initiative. The Ohio Buckeye Chapter is an affiliate of SWANA, the oldest, largest and most well-respected professional organization in the field of solid waste management systems. The Buckeye Chapter is dedicated to developing professionalism in the field by offering training and we wholeheartedly support improving safety for our workers in Ohio. We are partnering with the private solid waste industry, the National Waste & Recycling Association on this important proposal to increase safety in Ohio.

Every day there are drivers of solid waste and recycling collection vehicles on the streets of Ohio collecting rubbish and recyclable materials from residents and businesses. These vehicles may literally stop by the side of the road as many as 900 times a day. While the truck is stopped, both the truck, but most importantly the driver, are in danger that someone will hit either the truck, driver (in the case they are outside of the vehicle) or both.

As you may know, current 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. This amendment would extend these protections to waste and recycling collection vehicles.

Due to the nature of solid waste collection, waste and recycling 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, the drivers are at the back of a truck in the most vulnerable position possible – between the truck and on-coming traffic. The reality is it only takes one distracted driver, one driver in a hurry or some other unfortunate circumstance to cost a driver their life and leave their families in anguish.

We respectfully request your support of SB 127.

Sincerely,
SWANA Buckeye Chapter
Don Johnson, Chapter President

James Profitt, Buckeye Chapter Safety Ambassador