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March 13, 2018

RE: Senate Bill 272 – Substitute for SB 272 by the Senate Committee on Transportation - Regulating traffic; unlawful passing of a waste collection vehicle.

Chairman Proehl and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Lisa Disbrow, Director of Government & Public Affairs for Waste Management of Kansas, Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee in support of Substitute of Senate Bill 272.

We believe this legislation will provide another mechanism to improve safety for the industry's drivers and workers as they perform their jobs. In Kansas, Waste Management has approximately 400 drivers and helpers out on collection routes daily in Wichita, Topeka and the Kansas City metropolitan area collecting trash and recycling generated by residents and businesses. Safety for our company is a core value and an issue that we talk about every day. For example, a collection vehicle may stop 800 to 1,000 times a day on residential streets. While the vehicle is stopped, both the truck and most importantly, the driver and a helper may be in danger that another vehicle will crash into the employee or the vehicle. Based on the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, solid waste collection is the fifth deadliest job in the U.S. For Waste Management, we know this statistic too well.

Due to the nature of our business, we routinely disrupt traffic flow by frequently stopping to service homes and businesses. Our drivers and helpers are required to wear high visibility vests. Our collection vehicles have flashing strobe lights, reflective tape, and Waste Management has painted the rear of every vehicle yellow, all in effort to raise our vehicles visibility. But we need your help. Despite these additional steps to increase our vehicles' visibility to other motorists, our drivers may still be hit. Last year in Kansas City, a motorist tried to "squeeze-by" our vehicle and hit our driver.

We are here today to seek your support of Senate Bill 272 as it will help bring awareness to the public about the importance of slowing down as they approach collection vehicles. Similar legislation has passed in sixteen states to date with language introduced in additional seven states including Nebraska. I have attached photos from last year's NWRA promotion of the law passage of Iowa and Missouri.

Thank you,

Lisa Disbrow

Waste Management of Kansas, Inc.



NWRA's Iowa & Missouri Media Event to promote Slow Down to Go Around

