



National Solid Wastes Management Association

To: Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
From: Jason E. Johns, Wisconsin Chapter of the National Solid Wastes Management Association
Re: SUPPORT of AB 159
Date: May 2, 2013

Chairman Kleefisch & Honorable Members of the Committee;

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to appear in front of you today regarding AB 159. I am here on behalf of one of my clients, the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA), a trade association comprised of private sector solid waste and recycling services companies. We have members all over the state both large corporate on down to the independent small operator. Our association and all of its members wholeheartedly endorse AB 159 to increase protection of our workers that are very susceptible to injury and death while simply just doing their job.

The bill's imposing of double fines for certain speeding violations and reckless driving committed around a sanitation worker is a great tool in putting the public on notice that they need to put their cell phones down, take their foot off the pedal, and pay closer attention when going around a worker or their vehicle.

In conjunction with AB 159's message to the drivers of Wisconsin our national association has launched a public awareness campaign across the country entitled "Slow Down To Get Around" and we will be including aspects of this campaign in Wisconsin in conjunction with what is hopefully a new law soon. NSWMA has championed safety for years. Its SDTGA national campaign reminds motorists to drive more carefully near solid waste and recycling collection vehicles. Motorists are often distracted while driving and frequently crash into collection employees or vehicles-sometimes with fatal consequences or life changing results such as the unfortunate story of Mark Friend whom Representative Jagler has already shared with you.

Sanitation workers are an extremely vulnerable group when in the performance of their job. Cones, signs, barrels and pylons can be used to separate construction, utility and tow truck workers from traffic and alert the public to workers at risk. This is not an option for garbage and recycling trucks as they stop at almost every household and business almost every week to provide service essential to public health and welfare.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Solid Wastes Management Association wishes to publicly thank Representative Jagler & Senator Farrow for this legislation. It will no doubt result in the reduction of stories like Mark Friend's. We respectfully request that this committee support SB 145.

Thank you,
Jason E. Johns
WI Chapter of NSWMA

Cc: Peggy Macenas, NSWMA Midwest Region



WASTE MANAGEMENT

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May 2, 2013

To: Rep. Kleefisch, Chairman, and the
Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice

From: Lynn Morgan, Public Affairs Manager for Waste Management

Re: In Favor of Assembly Bill 159/Sanitation Worker Safety

Please support Assembly Bill 159, a bill that would make the workday safer for the hardworking men and women who drive garbage and recycling trucks in Wisconsin.

Our company demands that our drivers take care to protect themselves, the public and property as they work. Safety is so embedded in our culture that it would be difficult to list all of the measures in place to continually train, evaluate and coach our drivers and managers to ensure safety.

AB 159 addresses a workplace risk we can't control: The threat our drivers face from a speeding, increasingly distracted driving public. When they step out of their trucks to move garbage and recycling cans or pick up litter, too often our employees step into danger. Hundreds of collection workers are struck by motorists every year -- some fatally -- and the number of incidents is increasing, according to the National Solid Wastes Management Association. And for every accident, there are uncounted near misses.

The threat has become so serious that we now train our drivers never to turn their backs to traffic while working at the rear of their trucks. Instead, we require them to stand sideways so they can see approaching cars and take evasive action.

If you pass AB 159, you'll be alerting the driving public to the need for caution where sanitation workers may be on foot.

Thank you for considering this growing problem, and supporting passage of AB 159 to give sanitation workers the protection they deserve.