

January 8, 2021

Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Secretary of Labor-designate
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02201-2013

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Walsh,

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) congratulates you on your selection by President-elect Biden to serve as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor and urges the Senate to confirm you for the position.

NWRA appreciates your reputation as a consensus builder that you have earned during your tenure as Mayor of Boston. Your commitment to finding common ground is precisely what is needed in our country today. We agree that it is vital for strong relations between labor and employers for the good of everyone, especially when it comes to worker safety.

The waste and recycling industry has been fifth on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) ten deadliest professions list for several years with many of these fatalities resulting from collection workers being struck by members of the general public who are driving while distracted. NWRA has been at the forefront of advocating state legislation to expand "Move Over" laws to include our industry, which it now is in 31 states. Last month, BLS announced its 2019 data and our industry dropped from fifth to sixth due to a significant decrease in the fatality rate. NWRA is committed to reducing industry fatalities further with the goal of getting off the list entirely.

To that end, NWRA recently announced that it would make available its industry-renowned weekly e-newsletter, Safety Monday, for free moving forward to anyone who requests it. This includes both NWRA members and non-members regardless of whether they are in the private or public sectors of the waste and recycling industry. Safety Monday is often used by safety professionals and supervisors during their meetings to provide important reminders to their employees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Safety Monday e-newsletter has provided resources to reduce the spread of the illness as well as usual reminders about safe driving, collection practices and staying healthy.

Your past support for creating an apprenticeship program to deliver more opportunities for people of color and women is of great interest to us as we face workforce shortages throughout our industry. We hope to work under your leadership with the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor to increase the role of women in waste and recycling.

NWRA represents the private-sector waste and recycling industry that is essential to maintaining the quality of American life by protecting public health and the environment. The delivery of waste and recycling services impacts all residential, commercial, healthcare and

industrial properties on a daily basis. During our current national emergency, NWRA members have been classified by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) as "essential" and are listed under five different "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" headings in the CISA 4.0 guidelines - "Transportation and Logistics," "Public Works and Infrastructure Support Services," "Healthcare / Public Health," "Critical Manufacturing" and "Hazardous Materials."

Our members collect, process, and manage waste, recyclables, organics, and medical waste; operate and manage landfills in compliance with all federal and state laws; manage and service truck fleets and collection vehicles; design, manufacture, sell, and service equipment and supplies.

The association's mission is to provide leadership, education, safety expertise, research, and advocacy to promote the waste and recycling industry. NWRA's goal is to ensure a climate where our members can continue to provide safe, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible services and jobs that benefit communities throughout America.

Our members operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and can be found in most, if not all, U.S. congressional districts. Waste and recycling facilities number nearly 18,000 scattered throughout the U.S., mirroring population centers. Our nearly 700 members are a mix of publicly-traded and privately-owned local, regional, and Fortune 500 national and international companies. NWRA represents approximately 70 percent of the private sector waste and recycling market.

The solid waste industry directly employs about 458,000 people as of late 2020 with a total payroll of more than \$28 billion. It is estimated that the private sector waste and recycling industry accounts for over one million jobs and generates nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars in U.S. GDP.

Congratulations once again on your selection to serve our nation as Secretary of Labor. Please do not hesitate to call upon us as a resource as you move forward with the goal to "Build Back Better" our nation's workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell K. Smith".

Dr. Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President & CEO