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March 19, 2020

Hon. Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,
Response and Recovery
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Peter T. King
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,
Response and Recovery
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Payne, Ranking Member King, and
Members of the Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery subcommittee,

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) is the voice in the nation's capital for the private-sector waste and recycling industry that is essential to maintaining the quality of American life and preventing the spread of disease and illness. The delivery of waste and recycling services impacts all residential, commercial, and industrial properties on a daily basis.

During this national emergency, NWRA members will continue providing waste and recycling services to their customers and elsewhere as may be needed regardless of one's ability to pay in order to protect the public's health and safety.

The solid waste industry directly employs nearly 470,000 people as of late 2019 with a total payroll of more than \$29 billion. It is estimated that the private sector waste and recycling industry accounts for over one million jobs.

Providing these essential services to those unable to pay as a result of economic hardships caused by COVID-19 while continuing to employ the workforce needed to support such an effort will require assistance. This challenge is something our members already are facing today. According to POLITICO, "One Manhattan-based carter said its customer portfolio has dropped by 30 percent — and more drastic cuts are expected. Another executive at a large waste company said 300 customers have already suspended service this week, up from just 25 suspensions last Friday. He expects that number to grow to 1,000 soon."

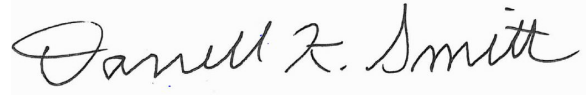
NWRA requests that disaster relief funding through FEMA be made available in a COVID-19 stimulus package to compensate the industry for providing non-compensated services to protect public health and safety during this time of national emergency. NWRA asks specifically for funding to cover services provided across the country related to customer bad debt and other non-compensated costs incurred for services being provided to the public during this national emergency.

Association 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.

NWRA urges quick consideration of this request so that our members can continue providing these essential services for the public health while continuing to pay their employees who are performing this

work. Should you have any questions, please contact Jim Riley at 202-364-3744 or jriley@wasterecycling.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell K. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President and CEO