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July 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA), the leading national trade association representing all aspects of the waste and recycling collection industry, we urge you to include [S. 3984](#) introduced by Sens. Carper, Boozman, and Portman, to provide that payments for waste and recycling collection services are allowable expenses under the Paycheck Protection Program and eligible for loan forgiveness under the CARES Act in the upcoming "Phase IV" COVID-19 relief package. This is an important issue facing our industry as contracts going unpaid for services rendered result in unrecoverable customer bad debt. Enactment of S. 3984 will help enable our members to continue providing essential services to their communities.

By way of background, our members provide important public health services in the communities they serve that prevent the spread of disease and illness. We employ 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. These services have a material impact on all healthcare, residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Every day the employees in our industry perform their duties even though they are at an elevated risk of infection, and this industry has been left out of every single aid package thus far.

During this national emergency, NWRA members have been classified as "essential" and are listed under five different "essential critical infrastructure workers" headings in the CISA 3.0 guidelines.¹ They have continued providing waste and recycling services to their customers and communities in order to protect the public's health and safety and will do so as long as they are capable and businesses and customers who receive PPP loans should be able to use those funds to pay for our services, just as they would water, gas, internet, or phone services.

Addressing this issue in the next COVID-19 economic support package (Phase IV) is paramount to our continuing to service our neighborhoods and communities. Should our members not be able to operate due to economic or health reasons, we could see waste collection stop. The accumulation of waste in our neighborhoods and businesses is something we want to work with you to avoid happening at all costs.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request. Please ask the appropriate staff member in your office to contact Jim Riley at 202-364-3744 or jriley@wasterecycling.org to discuss this issue or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell K. Smith".

Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President and CEO

¹ "Public Works and Infrastructure Support Services," "Critical Manufacturing," "Hazardous Materials," "Healthcare / Public Health," and "Transportation and Logistics." Source: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_4.pdf