

December 16, 2020

Mayor Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation-designate
P.O. Box 1226
South Bend, IN 46624

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Buttigieg,

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) congratulates you on your nomination to serve as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and urges the Senate to confirm you for the position.

NWRA appreciates your long-standing recognition of the importance of waste and recycling collection, even going so far as stating in a January 2017 BuzzFeed interview that "It's connected to the meaning of life."

We also applaud your statement from that same interview on the need for "a road to get you to where you're going" as no other industry in America apart from ours and the U.S. Postal Service travels every road in the nation at least once every week. This makes our industry one of the most significant stakeholders in the country's system of roads and highways.

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. The industry's publicly traded companies are among the largest components of the Dow Jones U.S. Waste & Disposal Index (DJUSPC).

Congratulations once again on your nomination to serve our nation as Secretary of Transportation. 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 infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell K. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President & CEO