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**Testimony of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority
Michael R. Bzdyra, Government Relations Liaison
Re: HB 5474 AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL AND STATE
RECYCLING
Before the Environment Committee
February 2, 2009**

Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Committee. My name is Mike Bzdyra and I am the Government Relations Liaison for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. CRRA is here to support many of the concepts outlined in HB 5474. As the state's largest publicly owned recycling entity, CRRA is one of the strongest advocates of recycling and believes there may be opportunities to allow for the beneficial reuse of certain materials such as recycled glass from our recycling centers or ash residue that is an inorganic by-product after the environmentally safe incineration of trash.

We support the recycling of all plastics as long as there are the necessary markets willing to purchase the recycled materials to make into other plastic products. Without viable markets to purchase these other types of plastics (other PET and HDPE which we currently recycle at our two regional recycling centers), these materials would have no place to be deposited.

We also support the concept of a revolving loan fund to encourage curbside recycling, both single-stream and dual stream recycling, and to assist municipalities with the costs of capital investments in recycling vehicle and equipment upgrades as well as residential recycling carts and containers. However, CRRA also recognizes that the state is dealing with enormous budget constraints at this time and understands such a fund may not be currently affordable.

In terms of allowing towns to collect and deliver recyclables from businesses to CRRA's recycling centers, we would support the concept to encourage more recycling, however, CRRA does not want to interfere with the private sector recycling efforts if such recycling is already taking place.

Finally, in light of these difficult economic circumstances currently facing the state and towns, we would not want to have any unfunded mandates for recycling imposed on municipalities or residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 5474. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.