



## **Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee**

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(Treasurer)

Bristol -  
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(President)

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Southington -  
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*Thomas Dunn*  
Mayor  
(Secretary)

Testimony of the  
Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee  
to the Environment Committee  
February 13, 2009

Proposed S.B. No. 3

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACQUISITION OR USE OF CERTAIN**  
**PARCELS OF LAND AS ASH RESIDUE DISPOSAL AREAS**

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee. On behalf of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee, made up of 14 towns and cities in Connecticut representing over 10% of the state's population, I am presenting written testimony on Proposed Senate Bill No. 3, **AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACQUISITION OR USE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND AS ASH RESIDUE DISPOSAL AREAS**. We are concerned with the safe, environmental and cost-effective disposal of municipal solid waste and recyclables. In addition, since our Board is comprised of Mayors, Selectmen and Town Managers, we also represent the direct interests of our taxpayers, both residential and commercial.

BRRFOC has consistently testified that the public sector needs to have a significant role managing the state's solid waste infrastructure. We have been very vocal about the need for local government involvement vis a vis the state's waste to energy plants and we are similarly concerned about the current absence of publicly owned ash landfills. Because Connecticut does not allow ash reuse/recycling, the ash residue from the state's facilities needs to be landfilled at great cost. For the Bristol project alone, our ash disposal costs exceed \$2.5 Million/year, a cost which is embedded in our municipal member tipping fees to the tune of over \$12/ton.

Presently, there is only one MWC ash residue landfill permitted in the state, creating a private monopoly on a critical public infrastructure. We encourage and support the development of additional ash disposal capacity in Connecticut. It will provide competition and help stabilize tipping fees. We have no opinion as to the suitability of the parcels in Franklin and Windham referenced in the bill for a MWC ash landfill. We encourage the legislature to allow the process to move forward so that DEP can make a proper determination based on all the environmental factors. Our permitting process affords ample opportunity during the hearing process for the public to comment on the merits of the site. Having experienced first hand the rigorous and comprehensive environmental review that DEP conducts on proposed ash landfills, we feel the proposed bill is not in the state's best interests since the regulatory process will determine whether the site is suitable or not.