



BRISTOL RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY OPERATING COMMITTEE



TUNXIS RECYCLING OPERATING COMMITTEE

43 Enterprise Drive
Bristol, Connecticut 06010
www.brrfoc.org

(860) 585-0419
(860) 225-9811
Fax (860) 585-9875

Testimony of the
Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee
And the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee
to the General Law Committee
February 13, 2009

Proposed Bill 324, LCO 1434

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANDATORY LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT
OF TRASH HAULERS

Berlin
Branford
Bristol
Burlington
Hartland
Meriden
Morris
New Britain
Plainville
Plymouth
Prospect
Seymour
Southington
Warren
Washington
Wolcott

Good morning Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and Members of the General Law Committee. My name is Jonathan S. Bilmes and I am the Executive Director of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee and the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee. These two organizations are made up of 16 towns and cities in Connecticut representing over 10% of the state's population. 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.

Today I am presenting written testimony on Proposed Bill 324 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANDATORY LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT OF TRASH HAULERS

We participated in all the meetings of the Governor's Solid Waste Hauling Advisory Group during 2006 and have testified several times here at the Capitol on this subject matter. Our testimony today is consistent with our prior position.

We support legislation that ensures the integrity of hauling operations and encourages honest competition in the waste hauling business. We oppose legislation that does not have a broad municipal/governmental exemption from licensing and fees. We also oppose legislation that creates potentially expensive state bureaucracies and requirements for private sector haulers who comply with local, state and federal rules and regulations.

Municipal and public sector employees are not involved in predatory or anticompetitive illegal hauling activities since these individuals only work in the

BRRFOC/TROC Testimony

Page 2

February 13, 2009

towns/cities that employ them and only have access to the waste streams that the town explicitly controls. Any legislation should include a broad governmental exemption.

We are concerned that the costs of the proposed licensing are not defined. Significant rule making is left to the discretion of the Department of Consumer Protection. Additional costs incurred by area haulers will be passed along to taxpayers. Whether these costs are offset by reductions from new found competition is not known.

We feel that a Consumer's Bill of Rights has some merit and, to the extent any bill moves forward, it should include this concept. Language protecting homeowners and businesses from predatory trash hauling practices has previously been proposed by the Attorney General's office.

Finally, we would request that the commissioner, in conjunction with the Attorney General's office, be authorized to consider market share and competitive issues prior to approving any merger or sale of a licensee.

Thank you in advance for considering our testimony on this important issue. Please contact me if you have any questions.