

**Testimony of  
Mayor Michael Jarjura  
Director, CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY  
Before the  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
RE: SB 1058 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Monday, March 9, 2009**

Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman, and the other members of the Planning & Development Committee. My name is Michael Jarjura and I am a member of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Board of Directors. I am also the Mayor of Waterbury. I am here today to speak in opposition to Section 5 of SB 1058, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

According to Section 5 of SB 1058, CRRA's Board of Directors would be prevented from spending \$3 million or more for any item for any project unless this proposed oversight committee votes to approve such spending. As a member of the CRRA Board of Directors I do not really understand why this language is here other than some type of political attempt at controlling our Board for purely political purposes. I am quite frankly offended that my decisions as a Board member would require oversight when I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to work in the best interest of the towns. In fact, the City of Waterbury is a member town of the Mid-Connecticut Project and any decisions the Board has made have been with the best interests of the towns in mind first and foremost.

The General Assembly re-created the Board of Directors seven years ago with all new Directors with to provide more municipal oversight. The goal was accomplished since most of the Board is comprised of municipal officials, many of whom represent Mid-Connecticut Project towns, including our Chair. This Board is appointed by the Executive and Legislative branches of government with equal representation by each of the four legislative caucuses.

The entire Board of Directors takes its mission very seriously and weighs all of its decisions carefully, especially setting trash disposal fees for its trash-to-energy projects including the Mid-Connecticut Project. All of CRRA's Board meetings are open to the public and we encourage municipal elected officials to attend and provide input and feedback to the Board.

As an example of CRRA's commitment to its towns, the Board created last year a Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee to obtain input directly from the municipal CEOs. This Municipal Advisory Committee is comprised of the chief executive of each of the 70 Mid-Connecticut Project towns. The Committee meets quarterly and has been very valuable in providing direction to the CRRA Board of Directors. In fact, it was on the advice of this committee that we used surplus funds to lower the Mid-Connecticut Project disposal fee mid-year, rather than wait for the following year as would otherwise have happened. We continue to

welcome this input and look forward to working with this Municipal Advisory Committee and all of our municipal customers.

We believe that if Section 5 of this bill were to somehow become law, it would have disastrous and unintended consequences for the state's solid waste and recycling systems. Also, this language would place at serious risk the Mid-Connecticut Project bond indenture and Connecticut's Special Capital Reserve Fund as well.

Therefore, Section 5 of SB 1058 must not move forward

As a final comment, all of CRRA's Board packages, minutes and its budgets are available on our Web site ([www.crra.org](http://www.crra.org)) and we encourage all of our customers to access those documents for review.

Thank you for the chance to testify and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.