

Testimony Submitted by
Joseph A. Ferraiolo
Before the Education Committee
Monday, March 9, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischman, and members of the Education Committee. For the record, my name is Joseph Ferraiolo and I am a 6th grader at Race Brook Elementary School in Orange, Connecticut. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 1011, *An Act Concerning Recycling Programs in Schools*.

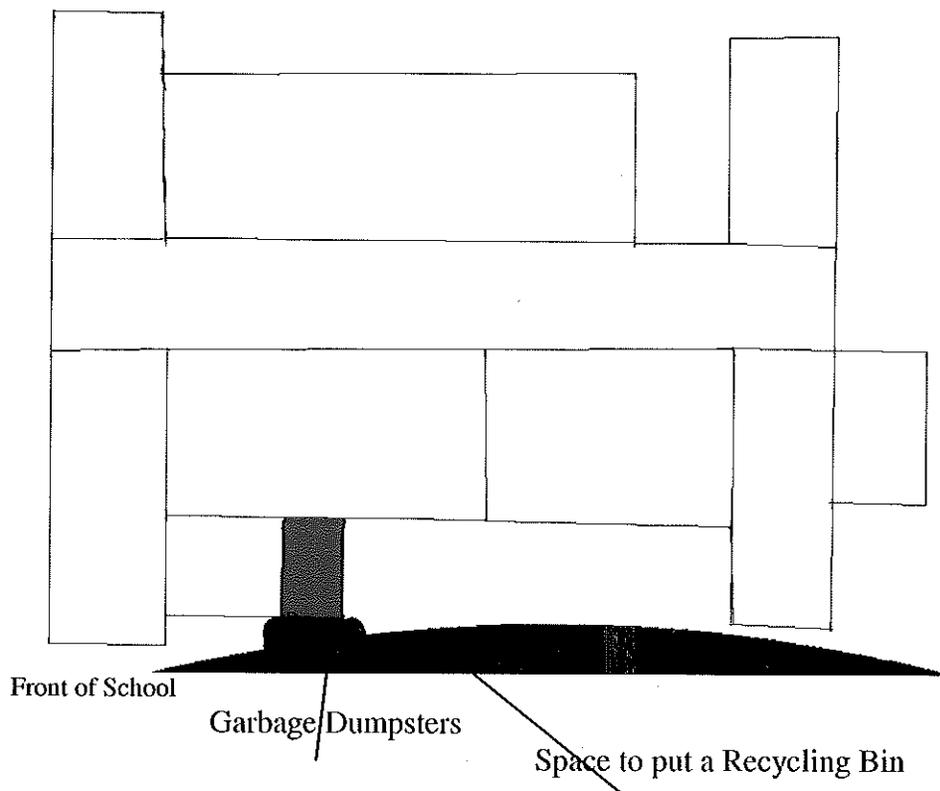
Recycling is important because the trash we make fills the landfills or must be burned. The best thing for the environment is for us to reduce the amount of trash we make and recycle it so that it may be reused to make new things. Kids can play a big role in protecting the earth and saving our environment.

Only about 25 % of Americans recycle. In addition, an estimated 4.5 million tons of office paper is thrown away across our country each year and enough plastic is thrown away to go the circumference of the earth 4 times. As you know a law was just passed that bottles can be put into reverse vending machines so we can earn money for the school. If these bottles were redeemed, it could raise approximately \$801,500 a year. There is also a lot of paper, bottles and cans that are thrown out in our school every year. This bill would make it easier for kids to recycle and help the environment and at the same time, they can also raise money for the schools.

This bill is important to schools like Race Brook because it has recycling bins, but when the recyclables are picked up, they are mixed with the other trash. This is because the town does not pick up the recycling at our school but it does pick up our trash though. Last year, I was on the Student Council and tried to get recycling program in our school but they could not do it because the school didn't have a way to get its recyclables to the recycling plant. I have started to collect empty water bottles from my classroom, take them home in my backpack and recycle them myself.

Also, recycling saves money. For example, it costs my town \$80 per ton to take the garbage to the trash-to-energy plant in Bridgeport. It cost my town \$0 per ton to take recyclables to the recycling plant in Stratford.

Race Brook School



There is enough room next to the garbage dumpster to fit a recycling bin (see picture above). We also need to train the janitors and other people in the school to separate the recyclables and then make sure they can get picked up at least once a week.

We are running out of nonrenewable resources so we all have to do our part to reduce the amount of trash (especially plastic, paper and aluminum) we make and reuse and recycle as much as possible. Thank you for this chance to talk to you today.