



City of Shelton
54 Hill Street
Shelton, CT 06484
www.cityofshelton.org

**Testimony of Mayor Mark A. Lauretti
City of Shelton**

**Re: SB 3 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACQUISITION OR USE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF
LAND AS ASH RESIDUE DISPOSAL AREAS
Before the Environment Committee
February 13 2009**

*Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor*

February 13, 2009

Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator McKinney, Representative Chapin, and all the other members of the Environment Committee. My name is Mark Lauretti and I am the Mayor of Shelton. I am also a Director of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority appointed by the House Minority Leader. I come here this morning to speak in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACQUISITION OR USE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND AS ASH RESIDUE DISPOSAL AREAS.

I have served on the CRRA Board for approximately seven years and was appointed in 2002 to serve on the newly created CRRA Board of Directors after the Enron debacle to help put the Authority back on a stable path. Along with Chairman Mike Pace and the other Directors, we have accomplished that goal and are looking to the future to continue to help the state of Connecticut be an environmental leader in the fields of solid waste management, recycling and renewable energy.

If this bill were to pass and prevent CRRA from proceeding at the Franklin site, it would in many ways make it very difficult to try to choose another site in the state. The main reason is because CRRA would be forced to then pursue another site in Connecticut, which would, by definition, not qualify as the best site in accordance with DEP's strict guidelines for siting such a landfill.

Additionally, CRRA has not even yet completed its own initial on-site testing of the location to determine if the Authority will move ahead and prepare a formal application to DEP. Passage of this bill would prevent the state from ever even knowing whether this meets all of the criteria as laid out by DEP. CRRA is charged with implementing the State's solid waste management plan and as a component of this plan, calls for the siting of an ash landfill.

While I can certainly understand the proponent's of the bill not wanting such a facility in one of their towns, this ash landfill is critical for the state to control its own solid waste destiny and not be beholden to out-of-state landfills or the only privately owned in-state landfill in Putnam. In addition, as you know, the need and responsibility of proper garbage disposal for Connecticut residents will be on-going forever. The establishment of an ash landfill is the first step in fulfilling those needs of cost containment as well as environmental best practices associated with garbage disposal.

This bill will have a negative impact on the state and its residents who will ultimately have to pay for the higher cost of shipping this ash residue out-of-state or to the privately-owned facility located in Putnam. My experience with the Bridgeport Project has taught me that solid waste facilities should be publicly owned.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Mark A. Lauretti

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton

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