

**Associated Refuse Haulers
352-60 South Main St.
Newtown, CT 06470**

To Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Patrick Caruso of Associated Refuse Haulers of America, Inc. I am a small business owner employing fifteen full time and part time employees. We provide waste removal services to the public and private sectors in the greater Danbury area. We have been in business since 1982. We are proud to have not furloughed any employee since my wife and I started our company especially during these economically challenged times.

I am writing to voice my opposition to several tax bills before you which would seriously damage Connecticut's economy and our ability to compete and succeed here. These proposals would substantially increase our business costs and make it much harder for us to continue doing business in Connecticut. Specifically, I am opposing:

- HB-6348 An Act Concerning Corporation Business Tax Credits.
- HB-6349 An Act Concerning The Sales Tax On Services.
- HB-6350 An Act Eliminating Exemptions From The Sales And Use Tax And Lowering The Rate Of Such Tax
- SB-815 An Act Concerning A Moratorium On Business Tax Credits.

The proposed bills would have a negative effective on our business functions as well as our customers. We would be denied any tax credit when we may have counted on using that credit to purchase new equipment that must be ordered 4 to 6 months prior to acquisition. The new equipment would be more energy efficient as well as being a "clean burn" diesel powered vehicle. In addition the above bills would require more accounting procedures and reporting to either get a tax credit or report more sales tax collections.

A large portion of our business is residential refuse collection. An imposition of a sales tax on that segment of our business would not be prudent at this time. We have had an increase in our tip fees, insurance rates, steel, repair and parts, tires, motor oil, diesel

fuel and equipment costs this past year. Combined with a very cold and harsh winter, I am sure our customers will have had enough – especially another new tax!

I urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Patrick Caruso
President
203-426-8870