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SB #1058 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairmen Sharkey and Coleman, Planning and Development Members:

I am Melody Currey, Mayor of East Hartford. Sec. 5 of this bill is what I am addressing.

CRRA was created legislatively to handle our municipal solid waste at the waste to energy plants in Connecticut. All CRRA plants with the exception of the Mid Connecticut Plant in Hartford have been privatized or taken over by other governmental parties. Today I come before you as one of the 70 Mayors/First Selectmen that belong to CRRA and the Mid Connecticut Plant here in Hartford that handles our solid municipal waste. Please note that effective December 31, 2011, the 70 towns/cities contract with CRRA will expire.

Governance of Mid Connecticut is what really brings me here. I am amazed at how little control the 70 CEOs have in relation to a plant that was created to handle our waste streams at an affordable rate. It is a quazi - public organization which has appointments to its board of directors by the Governor and Legislative Leaders. The tipping fees pay for the management and operations of that plant. While there are a few town/city representatives presently on the CRRA Board of Directors, I believe that all the towns would be better served by having the CRRA board of Directors comprised of the CEO's of the 70 member towns and cities.

Sec. 5, beginning on Line 79 of the bill before you indicates that \$3,000,000 dollars in the aggregate as an amount CRRA could not commit without the approval of the majority of the 70 Mid - Connecticut towns. Simply said, our taxpayers paid those tipping fees and I believe the towns and cities be allowed to have the final decision before CRRA can expend that amount. Remember, the contracts expire effective December 31, 2011 and the financial impact of these decisions on the communities when taking into consideration the economic condition of our State may be extremely adverse to our taxpayers.

In addition, please be aware that at the end of CRRA contract; it is debatable as to who owns the Mid Connecticut Plant; be it the State or the Towns and cities that have paid the bills. While it may appear cumbersome to have all 70 towns and cities involved with the decisions that will directly affect their communities, until a clear vision as to where CRRA will be in 2012, greater oversight is needed to protect the interests of both the membership towns and the State of Connecticut.

Regionalism with out representation from the communities is not what we should be striving for. I believe that the CEOs of the towns that belong to CRRA should be making these financial decisions and encourage you to support Bill No. 1058.

Thank you for your consideration.