

*Municipal registration and reporting requirements*

We should be looking for ways to reduce municipal reporting requirements, not increase them. The proposed bill greatly expands the municipal responsibilities for hauler registration and reporting. This could be considered an unfunded mandate for many towns and cities. Further, the only enforcement mechanism in the proposed bill is a penalty on municipalities if they fail to provide this data.

Program Review and Investigations Committee staff, in their study of municipal solid waste management services in CT, feels this hauler information would be more effectively and efficiently gathered by a state agency such as DEP. The recommendation to impose this burden on towns and cities is an ill-advised fallback position.

Further, it is unclear if all the data that is supposed to be gathered will, in fact, determine if non-competitive practices exist. The Program Review and Investigations Committee report acknowledges downsides to the proposed approach, including:

“Mandate on local governments; significant opposition from some municipalities could be expected; and “Possible additional costs for DEP to administer and report.”

The entire data reporting system for solid waste and recycling should be revamped in a comprehensive manner. Sections 5(d) and 5(e) of Raised Bill 5301, the subject of a public hearing in Program Review and Investigations Committee today, are important recommendations and should be adopted prior to requiring additional efforts by municipalities.

In addition, we believe that a significant administrative burden on municipalities and DEP can be reduced by changing the recycling/diversion performance metric by focusing on MSW generation rates which are much easier to obtain and measure as opposed to today's system, which requires everyone to count leaves, bottles, and cans. We are pleased that DEP has recently acknowledged the value of the per capita disposal rate as a performance measure.

Thank you. I will be happy to answer any questions.