



Testimony of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority
Before the Energy & Technology Committee

Re: Committee Bill 102, AN ACT EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF A CLASS 1 RENEWABLE
ENERGY SOURCE

March 1, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Energy & Technology Committee:

CRRA supports the concept of Committee Bill 102, An Act Expanding the Definition of a Class 1 Renewable Energy Source. This bill would, in effect, would classify a by-product of sewage treatment as Class 1 Renewable Power. We would propose that electricity generated from another waste product, namely municipal solid waste, should similarly be re-classified.

Currently, power generated at trash-to-energy facilities like our Mid-Connecticut Project plant here in Hartford is Class 2 Renewable. It sounds nice, but doesn't have the same market value of Class 1 Renewable. Upgrading our classification would pay significant dividends to the taxpayers of the 70 cities and towns that send their trash to our Hartford plant.

Every penny of our power price is worth about \$4.1 million in revenue. Since CRRA charges a disposal fee equal to its net cost of operation, an additional cent per kilowatt hour would allow us to reduce our disposal fee by \$5 per ton. Using towns' deliveries in Fiscal Year 2010, here's a few examples of what that would mean:

- Hartford would save over \$491,000 in one year.
- West Hartford would save over \$190,000.
- Clinton would save over \$44,000.
- Watertown would save over \$67,000.
- Waterbury would save over \$400,000.

The Connecticut Renewable Portfolio Standards require that electric suppliers purchase Class 1 Renewable power for at least eight percent of their retail supply, with that number growing to 20 percent by the year 2020. Instead of importing power from Maine or Canada, we could offer electric suppliers an indigenous source that would keep the environmental and the financial benefits here in Connecticut.

The state Solid Waste Management Plan declares that Connecticut must "Shift from a *throwaway society* towards a system that reduces the generation and toxicity of trash and treats wastes as valuable raw materials and energy resources, rather than as useless garbage or trash." Upgrading power from publicly-owned trash-to-energy plants such as CRRA's to Class 1 Renewable is an appropriate action to take in light of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at 860-757-7771 or pnonnenmacher@crra.org should you need any additional information.