



TOWN OF GRANBY

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15 NORTH GRANBY ROAD
GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06035-2125

Testimony of John E. Adams

First Selectman, Town of Granby

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

of the

Connecticut General Assembly

March 17, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony at today's important public hearing. My name is John Adams and I am the First Selectman of the Town of Granby. I am testifying today in support of

***SB-1170 – AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT
RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.***

In the summer 2008, a number of municipalities in the Capital Region expressed interest in evaluating alternatives for solid waste management. Working with the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), a study was undertaken to understand solid waste management options that might exist in the northeast and to evaluate the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) relative to potential alternatives. Ultimately, the group of Capital Region municipalities was looking to achieve transparency, accountability and cost-

effective solid waste management solutions. In 2010 the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) was formed by 21 municipalities to continue to explore solid waste management solutions following the expiration of our CRRA contracts in late 2012.

During this time frame, CRRA resurrected the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC is formed with representatives from the 70 member towns that comprise the Mid-Connecticut Project of CRRA. By-Laws were adopted in July 2009 and Officers were elected in November 2009 and February 2010.

At the March 2010 MAC meeting, I proposed a resolution to expand the CRRA Board of Directors. The resolution read, "Be it resolved that the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee supports the expansion of the CRRA Board to include Chief Elected Officials from all member towns." The resolution was overwhelmingly adopted by the membership.

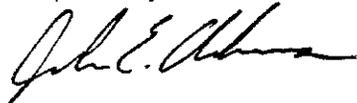
In November 2010, the MAC formed a Committee on Governance in accordance with its by-laws. I served on that committee and Co-Chairman Don Stein, First Selectman of Barkhamsted has submitted separate written testimony regarding the actions of the Committee. SB-1170 is a direct result of the work of the Committee on Governance. At the February 2011 MAC meeting, the Committee on Governance reported and after significant discussion, the report was overwhelmingly adopted.

Clearly there is overwhelming support from member communities to reconstitute the CRRA Board of Directors. We respect the work that has been

done by the current board, but believe that the changes proposed in SB-1170 would benefit member communities and the State as the CRRA enters a new era. To my knowledge, the CRRA is the only organization that municipalities belong to that they do not have a direct vote or at least an ability to select their representatives. Under the existing system, seats on the board go vacant for long periods of time. We believe the process proposed in the bill would permit municipally appointed seats to be filled quickly and efficiently. By maintaining five appointments in the hands of various legislative leaders and the Governor, we felt the legislature and the executive branch would continue to have strong ties to CRRA. I believe passage of this bill would result in greater transparency, more accountability and cost-effective solid waste management solutions, consistent with the goals established in 2008.

I urge your approval of SB-1170 to improve the CRRA board and achieve transparency, accountability and cost-effective solid waste management solutions for Connecticut Municipalities.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

John E. Adams

First Selectman