



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

Testimony by Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra
Raised Bill 1170

An Act Concerning The Membership of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority's Board of Directors
March 17, 2011, 12:00PM in Hearing Room 1E

Chairmen Fonfara and Nardello, Ranking Members Witkos and Hoydick, Vice-Chairmen Duff and Reed, and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bill 1170, AAC *The Membership of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority's Board of Directors*.

While the effort to improve representation of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) member communities is appropriate and necessary, the City of Hartford **opposes** this bill as presently composed.

As the host community for the CRRA, it is the City's position that it must retain the right to a guaranteed seat on the Board of Directors. This will ensure that the City of Hartford's concerns will always be heard and measured before policy decisions – especially those that will clearly have a local impact – are made. Moreover, it is imperative that due consideration be given to the fact that when certain agreements between CRRA and the City of Hartford were memorialized, they were done so on the premise that Hartford would always be guaranteed appropriate representation.

The second concern relates to Section 1, subsections (c) and (d). As written, this bill would dissolve the present CRRA board on May 31, 2011 and delay the seating of a new board until July 1, 2011. This one month period of inactivity is problematic and troublesome in the sense that the powers vested in the CRRA Board of Directors, as detailed in existing statute, would transfer to the CRRA Executive Director. While hopefully an oversight in the original drafting of the bill, this concentration of decision-making authority is dangerous, hasty and ill-considered.

The City is also troubled by the effective date of the bill. At present, this bill, if passed by this committee, both chambers and signed by the Governor, would go into effect on July 1, 2011. Nevertheless, subsection (c) makes the expiration date for all present Board members May 31, 2011. The complexities of dissolving a governing board retroactively are disconcerting in the sense that stable and predictable leadership by an important and critical quasi-public entity is imperative at all times. The City is worried that the confusion that this small, but meaningful, detail would bring about a number of harmful and unintended consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on R.B. 1170. If the committee chooses to move this bill forward, I hope it will do so only after making the necessary changes as set forth above.

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