Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee

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Testimony of the
Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee
To the Insurance, Human Services, and Public Health Committees
February 14, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6308 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

Good Morning Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak, Senator Stillman and Representative Ritter. My name is Jonathan Bilmes, Executive Director of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee, comprised of fourteen towns and cities in Connecticut. We are concerned with the safe, environmental and cost-effective disposal of municipal solid waste and recyclables. Our Board of Directors is comprised of Mayors, Selectman and Town Managers; we represent the direct interests of our taxpayers, both residential and commercial. I am presenting testimony today in regard to **Raised H.B. No. 6308, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP.**

House Bill 6308 as drafted allows nonstate public employers, municipal-related employers, small employers and nonprofit employers to join the state employee health plan.

We would like the clear assurance that we, as an "operating committee," may also join this plan. We would like to request that language is added in Section 1. (11) (New) to define an operating committee created pursuant to Section 22a-221 of the CGS as a nonstate public employer.

BRRFOC was established pursuant to Section 22a-221a of the Connecticut General Statutes. This section states that the operating committee *"shall constitute a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the State of Connecticut..."* This language is used to characterize cities and towns within the state. The BRRFOC is for all intents and purposes on the same level as municipalities, only limited to its purpose: solid waste disposal service.

H.B. 6308 in Section 1 (7), defines 'Nonstate public employer' as a municipality or other political subdivision of the state. The phrase is identical to that of Section 22a-221a. Since the words "operating committee" are not included in H.B. 6308, we request that you include them so that the intent of the General Assembly is very clear.

Thank you for your consideration.