February 9, 2011

Dear Environment Committee Legislators,

As solid waste professionals who have worked in Connecticut for over twenty years, we are writing to ask your support for two important pieces of legislation being considered at the Public Hearing on February 9, 2011. We urge your **support** for:

Committee Bill No. 58, An Act Establishing a Fee for the use of Plastic and Paper Bags at Grocery and Retail Establishments
And
Committee Bill No. 57, An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption System.

These bills are important steps in reducing waste, building good consumer habits and creating a sustainable future for Connecticut.

Internationally and nationally, countries, regions and municipalities are taking action to reduce bag use. Most recently, Washington DC implemented a fee for single use bags and has experienced a huge reduction in bag use. This legislation will not only reduce the use of bags, conserve vital natural resources and encourage reuse, but also allow those who really want the bags to get them and have the funds go towards the State's underfunded recycling efforts. It's a small step that will make a big difference.

Bill No. 57 will help increase recycling of those on-the-go drinks that often get tossed in the garbage. Deposit legislation increases recycling rates. Public space recycling efforts are struggling across the state. Even with single stream recycling, most of these containers consumed away from home end up in the garbage. Expanding the deposit to these additional items will increase our stagnant recycling rates and increase funding for the State.

We hope you will support these efforts to increase recycling and source reduction and make CT a more sustainable place to live. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

CJ May
CJ May
New Haven, CT
203-627-2973

Kim O'Rourke
Kim O'Rourke
Cromwell, CT
860-638-9575

Winston Averill
Winston Averill
Hebron, CT
860-228-9166