

**CITIZENS
CAMPAIGN**
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



www.citizenscampaign.org

- ☐ 225A Main Street • Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-390-7150
- ☐ 188 East Post Road, Suite #404 • White Plains, NY 10601
914-358-9840
- ☐ 744 Broadway • Albany, NY 12207
518-772-1862
- ☐ 733 Delaware Road, Box 140 • Buffalo, NY 14223
716-831-3206
- ☐ 466 Westcott Street, 2nd Floor • Syracuse, NY 13210
315-472-1339
- ☐ 2404 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Floor • Hamden, CT 06518
203-821-7050

Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

MEMO OF OPPOSITION

Classifying Burning Garbage as Renewable Energy

HB 5118

AN ACT Concerning the Reclassification of Trash-to-Energy Facilities as Class I Renewable Energy Sources

BACKGROUND

Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was created to promote clean energy technologies and wean the state off of dirty fuel sources. Trash incineration is intended primarily as a method of solid waste disposal, not for use as a renewable energy resource. **Garbage may be plentiful, but it is not a renewable natural resource. The goal of the RPS is to promote clean, environmentally responsible energy technologies, not to provide subsidies for solid waste management.**

JUSTIFICATION

Garbage incineration facilities emit significant amounts of mercury, lead, cadmium, dioxin, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and acid gases. Last year, Covanta Energy Corporation was fined \$400,000 for a 2010 violation of air quality standards at their Wallingford incineration facility. Dioxin/furan levels in the exhaust stream were found to be more than 250 times greater than the allowable limits, prompting the State of Connecticut to order the shutdown of Covanta's Wallingford facility pending a series of modifications and rigorous emissions testing. This was Covanta's second violation of this kind in three years.

Classifying garbage as renewable energy provides a counterproductive incentive to generate more waste, and works against Connecticut's solid waste goals. Connecticut should be working toward reducing, not increasing, solid waste. Connecticut's solid waste management plan sets a goal of reducing solid waste to 58% by the year 2024. The current recycling rate has remained stagnant at about 24.5% since 2009. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) asserts that if the 58% reduction in solid waste is not achieved by 2024, there will be a significant shortfall of municipal solid waste disposal capacity in Connecticut.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OPPOSES HB 5118 CLASSIFYING BURNING GARBAGE AS A RENEWABLE ENERGY

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to protect public health and the natural environment.

www.citizenscampaign.org