



February 21, 2012

Testimony of Paul Nonnenmacher, President, Connecticut Recyclers Coalition

Re: HB 5118, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES AS CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

Members of the Environment Committee:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Winston Averill**  
SCRRA

**Sally Crapser**  
Town of Granby

**Evelyn Golden**  
Signature Marketing

**Ray Graczyk**  
NLR Inc.

**Celeste Johnson**  
Consultant

**Tim Maloof**  
Interstate Refrigerant  
Recovery, Inc.

**Cyril May**  
Yale University

*Treasurer*  
**Sotiria Montanari**  
Connecticut Resources  
Recovery Authority

*President*  
**Paul Nonnenmacher**  
Connecticut Resources  
Recovery Authority

*Secretary*  
**Brooks Parker**  
Town of Manchester

**Pam Roach**  
Town of Hamden

*Vice President*  
**Bill Smith**  
Durham Fair

**Robert Isner**  
Department of Energy &  
Environmental Protection

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 290965  
Wethersfield, CT 06129-0965

**Electronic Communication:**  
[www.ctrecyclers.com](http://www.ctrecyclers.com)  
[pnonnenmacher@crca.org](mailto:pnonnenmacher@crca.org)

At its meeting of February 9, the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition Board of Directors voted unanimously to support expanding the definition of Class 1 renewable energy to include electricity generated by trash-to-energy plants.

CRC's membership consists of corporate, municipal, institutional and private members working with recycling and other issues related to solid waste.

At first blush, a recycling organization supporting something that would benefit trash disposal might seem counterintuitive. But trash-to-energy is making it possible for Connecticut to be the first state in the nation to meet an important environmental goal: the closing of all solid-waste landfills. When the Windsor-Bloomfield landfill closes in the middle of this decade, as expected, our state will reach that goal.

Everyone seems to be jumping on to the zero-waste bandwagon that CRC has been leading for years. But until we reach that goal, we're not going to run out of trash. Our society is increasingly focusing on making less waste, recycling and recapturing of energy. As evidence, just a few months ago the State of Maryland enacted legislation designating trash-to-energy as a Class 1 renewable source.

Publicly-owned trash-to-energy facilities, such as those owned and operated by the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority, the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee and the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, have two primary sources of revenue – disposal fees and power sales. When power prices decrease, disposal fees must increase to cover the difference, and that increase is passed directly onto our cities and towns and their residents. Because Class 1 renewable power fetches a higher price,

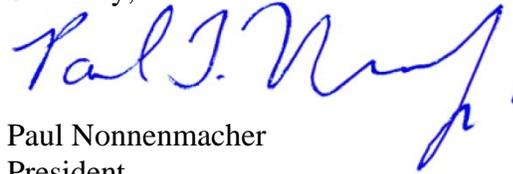
These public authorities perform another critical job: educating Connecticut citizens about recycling, composting, energy conservation and environmentally responsible waste management. They pay for this with a small fraction of their revenues. The state Solid Waste Management Plan has set aggressive recycling goals and refers to education no less than 300 times as a means of meeting those goals. If power prices remain depressed, they may be unable to carry out that vital mission.

It is imperative that we afford trash-to-energy this elevated status to ensure these vital, award-winning environmental education programs are not jeopardized. With the creation of the state Solid Waste Management Plan, we as a state acknowledged

that trash-to-energy is vastly superior to the less-environmentally friendly alternative of landfilling. Today, Connecticut has the opportunity to uphold and validate that policy. CRC strongly supports the passage of H.B. 5118.

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition appreciates your consideration of our testimony, and stands ready and willing to assist our state in maintaining its position as the nation's leader in environmentally responsible waste management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Nonnenmacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "N".

Paul Nonnenmacher  
President  
Connecticut Recyclers Coalition