

February 29, 2012

To: Jason Bowsza
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Bldg Rm 3200
Hartford, CT 06106
Jason.Bowsza@cga.ct.gov

Chairman Edward Meyer:
Chairman Richard Roy:

I wish to offer the following supporting statement for HB 5118 concerning reclassification of trash-to-energy facilities as a Class 1 Renewal Energy Source.

My name is Mrs. Dot Kelly. I have been a Board Member of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA) for 2 years and a past Director of Energy and Environmental Services for Ciba Specialty Chemicals and an active community volunteer.

I am in favor of encouraging a governmental incentive for waste-to-energy when necessary from an economic viewpoint. Since the Mid-Connecticut waste to energy plant (Hartford) is publicly owned and does not receive an above market rate electricity payment, this plant needs to have an incentive. This is not true for all the waste to energy plants in Connecticut and each facility should be looked at as a separate issue. Thus, without further information that explicitly shows the need to provide additional incentives, I would recommend an amendment that limits the waste-to-energy reclassification to publicly owned waste-to-energy facilities that do not receive an electricity subsidy.

The waste management hierarchy should continue to encourage waste minimization, then waste reuse then waste refining/recycling and finally waste to energy. Landfilling should be a last resort and then only at environmentally sound landfills.

Significantly, HB 5118 will bring dollars currently being spent with out-of-state renewable electricity generators back to Connecticut. Currently, Connecticut produces roughly 4 percent of New England's Class 1 renewable power; but consumes 20 percent of the region's Class 1 power. State law requires that Connecticut suppliers' power portfolios include 9 percent Class 1 renewable power, with that figure increasing to 20 percent by 2020. We reach compliance by importing power from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. The simple fact is there is not enough homegrown Class 1 renewable power available to meet Connecticut's needs, and the projected development of Class 1 generation, as it is currently defined is not great enough to meet the state's growing demands.

It is a great privilege to serve as a board member (volunteer position) of CRRRA because of its important role for waste management in the state. I hope the Environment Committee will give my testimony due consideration as encouraging Class 1 power in Connecticut is in the best interests of all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dot Kelly

cc: Tom Kirk (860-727-4141 fax)
Jim Perras (JPerras@crra.org)