

I wish to offer the following supporting HB5118 concerning reclassification of trash-to-energy facilities as a Class 1 Renewal Energy Source.

My name is Dr. Theodore Martland, I have been a Board Member of CRRA for 10 years (this will be my last); a past Business Administrator and Superintendent of Schools for 30 years, a builder of residential homes and now a General Partner of two Residential Care Homes, one in Waterbury and the other in Bridgeport. Our application to CHFA for historic and low income tax credits, (where Waterbury was the first in the State and which was copied by an application for Greenwich - a real compliment for Waterbury!)

While some might feel this legislation is just directed at CRRA's Hartford project, the real beneficiaries will be various size towns from small to our largest cities, and all of us who reside in them.

HB5118 also ensures that anyone who pays for trash disposal - and that's all of us - sees its benefit. Whether a trash-to-energy facility is publicly or privately owned, the economic benefits of Class 1 status would flow back to cities and towns and, ultimately, our residents and businesses in the form of stabilized or lowered tipping fees. This would help trash-to-energy facilities remain competitive with hauling to out-of-state landfills, which would be demonstrably worse for our environment. Landfilling is the least preferred method of disposal under the current State Solid Waste Management Plan. H.B. 5118 would give municipalities an economic incentive to make the environmentally-superior choice.

Significantly, H.B. 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.

I hope the Environmental Committee will give my letter due consideration as encouraging Class 1 power in Connecticut is in the best interests of all of us.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. T. H. Martland

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