

**Southeastern
Connecticut
Regional
Resources
Recovery
Authority**

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**Statement of David Aldridge, Executive Director SCRRRA, in support of HB5118, AN ACT CONCERNING
THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES AS CLASS ONE ENERGY SOURCES**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and distinguished members of the Environment Committee. My name is David Aldridge, and I am the Executive Director of SCRRRA. I am here today in full support of HB5118.

As you know, SCRRRA is made up of 12 cities and towns in Southeastern Connecticut. The Authority was created by legislative act in 1985 to implement solutions for solid waste, recyclables, household hazardous waste and other waste materials. The Authority bonded and constructed a state of the art waste-to-energy plant in Preston CT which became operational in 1992. This facility burns in excess of 700 tons of waste per day. Emissions from this process are carefully monitored and controlled to ensure compliance with state and federal standards. The heat from the combustion process generates steam which, in turn, drives two generators that produce 18 megawatts of electric power. The sale of this power generates revenue which is used to offset a portion of the solid waste disposal cost and to support the Authority's efforts to promote Reduction, Recycling and Reuse initiatives within the Southeastern Connecticut Region. The waste to energy facility has proven to be a more environmentally sound and economically feasible option than the alternative, hauling the waste to an out of state landfill. Hauling the waste would involve unacceptable transportation congestion, subject the process to unpredictable expense due to volatile diesel fuel prices, and add pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions to our air. For these reasons we look to maintain our current process far into the future.

SCRRRA is in support of HB5118 because the economic benefit of class one status would help maintain lower tipping fees and ease the tax burden assessed by municipalities for these services. We also believe that since state law already requires Connecticut Power Producers to purchase Class 1 renewable power from other sources that this bill would not impact electric ratepayers. In addition, currently 96 percent of Class 1 renewable energy is currently being purchased from out-of-state electric

suppliers; therefore HB5118 would have the added benefit of keeping our expenditures within the state to the benefit of our own residents.

To summarize, the municipalities in Southeastern Connecticut recognized long ago the benefits of waste-to-energy and made a considerable investment to include this method of disposal an integral part of controlling the waste stream in our community. For 20 years this operation has proved to be an environmentally sound and economical solution in concert with our initiatives to Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. SCRRRA believes that HB5118 would provide much needed support to sustain this operation far into the future. I am grateful for the opportunity to express our opinion to you today, and look forward to answering any questions that you might have.