

**CONNECTICUT
RESOURCES
RECOVERY
AUTHORITY**

100 Constitution Plaza, 6th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING LEADER Telephone: 860-757-7771 Fax: 860-727-4141

February 22, 2012

Mr. Jason Bowsza
Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
Via email to Jason.Bowsza@cga.ct.gov

**Re: SB 89: An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program.
HB 5125: An Act Increasing Municipal Representation on the Board of
Directors for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.**

Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on the above-referenced bills scheduled for public hearings on February 22, 2012.

HB 5125, An Act Increasing Municipal Representation on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, has been a subject of discussion between CRRA and its customer municipalities for a number of years. Four of our ten directors are currently municipal officials, as were two other members until last November. Currently our board and the customer municipalities agree that there should be greater municipal representation. As such, CRRA supports the concept of adding additional municipal representation to our board of directors.

The CRRA Board and the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), comprised of the chief officials of the 70 Mid-Connecticut Project cities and towns, created a working group consisting of members representing both entities to develop compromise language. That language has yet to be discussed and debated by the full CRRA Board. The Board is scheduled to address this issue at its next meeting on Thursday, February 23. Consequently, CRRA management anticipates submitting language to the Environment Committee in the coming days that is endorsed by our member towns and the Board. CRRA appreciates the indulgence of the Environment Committee and will work in an expeditious manner to get amendment language to the Committee in a timely fashion.

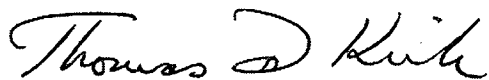
Additionally the CRRA is aware of the Governor's working group on solid waste and recycling. One of this working group's specific charges is to consider the governance of CRRA. CRRA expects that all stakeholders in the state's Solid Waste Management Plan will have the interest and opportunity to participate in the working group and in particular in the consideration of alternative governance models for CRRA. Given the working group's anticipated report date, CRRA understands the legislature is likely to find it prudent to receive the recommendation of the working group before determining final changes to CRRA's governance.

With regard to **SB 89, An Act Establishing a Mattress Stewardship Program**, CRRA has long recognized that mattress disposal is an expense to virtually all cities and towns. We also know that the problem worsened as the economic downturn and housing foreclosures forced more and more people to move out of their homes, leaving behind more and more mattresses requiring disposal at a price of up to \$40 per mattress.

Because we knew this was a problem for our towns, we put up \$20,000 and provided in-kind services such as use of our meeting facilities for the development of a solution to this problem. CRRA strongly supports the institution of a comprehensive mattress-recycling system. CRRA did not, however, have a role in crafting the legislation before your Committee, thus our Board of Directors has not had the opportunity to review and take a position on this particular bill.

Thank you for considering our testimony on these two bills. Please know that CRRA stands ready and willing to assist your committee in crafting solutions to our state's solid-waste challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas D. Kirk".

Thomas D. Kirk
President