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**Environment Committee**  
**Public Hearing**  
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**Testimony In Support Of Senate Bill 93, AAC A MERCURY  
THERMOSTAT COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

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Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator Roroback, and Representative Chapin, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 93, AN ACT CONCERNING A MERCURY THERMOSTAT COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

Covanta Energy, owner or operator of three of Connecticut's Waste To Energy facilities, supports the proposal to establish a comprehensive collection system with financial incentives for mercury containing thermostats in order to reduce the environmental and public health concerns posed by these products.

The best strategy for preventing releases of mercury and other toxins into the environment is by reducing its use in consumer products and we actively support legislation that would eliminate the use of mercury in consumer products. However, if mercury is used, manufacturers must be responsible for the collection and proper disposal of these products.

Covanta has been a real leader in combating mercury emissions. In the 1990's, working in partnership with the US EPA at our Stanislaus, CA facility, we tested and then employed carbon injection systems for mercury control. The result was quite dramatic, resulting in a greater than 90% reduction in mercury and dioxin emissions at that facility. Based on these positive results, we have subsequently installed this technology at all of our facilities.

An average thermostat contains four grams of mercury, an enormous amount when contrasted with compact fluorescent lights. In fact, it would take over 1000 of these lights to equal the amount of mercury in just one of those thermometers. Covanta has supported mercury collection programs for more than a decade. Beginning in 2010, we aggressively expanded these programs, and since then we have collected and safely disposed of more than 1,100 pounds of mercury.

Thank you for your consideration and we looking forward to working with you to continue to reduce mercury and other toxins from being used in products.