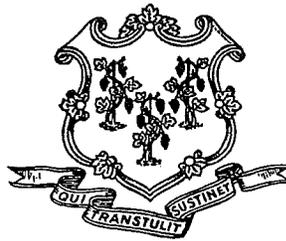


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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Higher Education & Employment
Advancement Committee

Member
Appropriations Committee
Education Committee
Internship Committee
Judiciary Committee

March 7, 2012

Testimony to the Environment Committee
Senate Bill ~~243~~ 265: An Act Concerning The Taxation Of Exported Refuse

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator for the 5th district, representing West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington and Bloomfield.

I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill ~~243~~ ²⁶⁵, which apply the same charge to waste transported out of state for final processing as waste which remains in our state. In recent years, Connecticut has exported, to surrounding states, between six and seven percent of the total volume of municipal waste generated. The current system incentivizes the transport of waste to neighboring states, especially in the border regions of the state where neighboring state facilities are easily accessible.

The current law is detrimental to the environment and to the trash-to-energy generation efforts in Connecticut. In an effort to provide ample waste to fill the capacities of our trash-to-energy facilities, Connecticut imports a large volume of waste from surrounding states.

This bill will redirect exported waste to our facilities for processing and lessen the room available for waste from other states. It will eliminate the out of state incentive and put all Connecticut produced refuse on the same level. I believe that this bill corrects two negative side effects of not having an export tax.

The goal of SB 243 is not to generate a revenue increase, although I recognize a small increase to the State may result. The goal is to improve the efficiency in the transportation of waste, which saves energy, reduces pollution and emissions, and eases the burden on our road infrastructure, while at the same time keeping fuel for our trash-to-energy plants accessible.

Thank you.