



**Testimony of
Bart Russell
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Environment Committee
March 1, 2012**

**RE: HB-5118 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TRASH-
TO-ENERGY FACILITIES AS CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

This will help lower tip fees by raising the value of energy

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **strongly supports HB-5118, which will help lower tip fees borne by municipalities by raising the value of energy.**

This issue was identified by COST members as a top priority for 2012.

This bill will provide sufficient revenue to support the continuation of waste disposal operations in an environmentally responsible manner. Due to the decline of natural gas prices, trash burning plants have seen a significant reduction in the price that they could obtain for power generated at the plants. As a result, towns may face steep increases in tipping fees.

By reclassifying trash as a Class 1 renewable, such plants would have a reliable revenue stream. Otherwise, plants may be unable to continue operations, forcing towns to pursue out-of-state landfill alternatives.

COST therefore urges support for HB-5118