



Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee

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Testimony of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee To the Labor and Public Employees Committee March 8, 2012

Senate Bill 259 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

Good Morning Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and Members of the Committee. My name is Jonathan S. Bilmes, Executive Director of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee, comprised of fourteen towns and cities in Connecticut. We are concerned with the safe, environmental and cost-effective disposal of municipal solid waste and recyclables. Our Board of Directors is comprised of Mayors, Selectman and Town Managers; we represent the direct interests of our taxpayers, both residential and commercial. I am presenting testimony today in regard to Senate Bill 259, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership.

Senate Bill 259, as drafted, allows nonstate public employers, municipal-related employers, small employers and nonprofit employers to join the state employee health plan.

We would like the clear assurance that we, as an "operating committee," may also join this plan. We are providing and requesting that language is added to ensure this by adding the phrase "operating committee" to the definition of a "Nonstate public employer" in lines 7-9 of Section 1. [...] or an "operating committee" created pursuant to Section 22a-221a of the CGS.

BRRFOC was established pursuant to Section 22a-221a of the Connecticut General Statutes. This section states that the operating committee "shall constitute a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the State of Connecticut..." This language is used to characterize cities and towns within the state. The BRRFOC is, for all intents and purposes, on the same level as municipalities, only limited to its purpose: solid waste disposal service.

SB 259 in Section 1 (7), defines 'Nonstate public employer' as a municipality or other political subdivision of the state. The phrase is identical to that of Section 22a-221a. Since the words "operating committee" are not included in SB 259, we request that you include them so that the intent of the General Assembly is very clear.

Thank you for your consideration.