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March 21, 2013

Senator Edward Meyer
Co-Chair, Committee on the Environment
Legislative Office Bldg. Rm 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Linda Gentile
Co-Chair, Committee on the Environment
Legislative Office Bldg. Rm 2100
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill 1018 – An Act Concerning Recycling & Jobs

Dear Chairman Meyer and Chairwoman Gentile:

We would like to express our support for Assembly Bill 1081 and encourage members of the Committee on the Environment to move this legislation forward to passage.

The American Biogas Council (ABC) represents 167 companies dedicated to the development of the anaerobic digestion and biogas industry. Our members ~~companies~~ include biogas project developers, landowners, anaerobic digestion [technology](#) providers, waste water [and waste management](#) companies, utilities and ~~the entire biogas supply chain~~ [universities](#).

With its strong commitment to the environment, progressive policies and strong economy, we see Connecticut as one of the most promising regions to expand the biogas industry.

One policy that makes Connecticut unique was passed in 2012: Public Act 11-217, “An Act Concerning the Recycling of Organic Materials by Certain Food Wholesalers, Manufacturers, Supermarkets and Conference Centers.” This pioneering bill crafted an innovative solution to the “chicken and egg” problem: Private industry is reluctant to invest in [organics processing and recycling infrastructure](#) unless it knows the ~~recycled material stream~~ [waste organic materials](#) will be available, while government is reluctant to mandate recycling unless it knows that adequate infrastructure exists [or will be built soon enough](#). In adopting P.A. 11-217 Connecticut found a way out of this dilemma by creating a mechanism whereby the existence of sufficient [local](#)

processing capacity triggers a mandate for larger organic waste generators to divert their waste to recycling. In concept, private sector businesses can move forward with multi-million dollar investments assured there will be sufficient feedstock to sustain a facility. Subsequently, waste generators and haulers can make the necessary arrangements and adjustments with confidence there will be a facility nearby that can accept their waste.

However, the language of the act was ambiguous in certain areas and many in industry were left wondering exactly how to proceed. As a consequence, relatively little organics processing capacity has been added since passage of P.A. 11-217. [To eliminate the ambiguity, R](#)aised Bill 1081 builds upon, and clarifies, this legislation. It sends an even stronger signal to the private market by requiring all commercial and institutional generators of organic waste to recycle their organics starting in 2020. This [leaves the slope of the infrastructure growth curve up to the market gives and provides the market](#) adequate time to build out an efficient organics recycling infrastructure that will ensure cost effective and sustainable organic waste management for all of Connecticut.

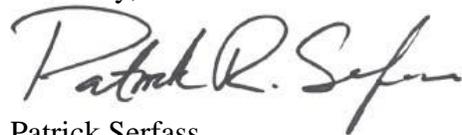
With this legislation, Connecticut brings “source separated organics” more fully into the overall recycling policy framework. Consistent with that approach, the ‘source separated organics’ subject to this legislation should be treated similarly to other recyclables. This can be accomplished by including a reference to this legislation within the definition of “designated recyclable item” found at Sec. 22a-027:

(27) “Designated recyclable item means an item designated for recycling by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection in regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of section 22a-241b, or designated for recycling pursuant to section 22a-208v, 22a-226e, or 22a-256.

We respectfully suggest that such language be added to the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Serfass
Executive Director