



**Testimony of Roger Smith, Co-Director, Clean Water Action
Energy and Technology Committee March 7, 2013**

**In Opposition to Raised Bill No. 6531 AN ACT PRESERVING AND
RETAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF IN-STATE RESOURCES
RECOVERY FACILITIES.**

We strongly oppose additional subsidies from electric ratepayers to polluting, and increasingly uneconomic trash incinerators.

The RPS is intended to support new and clean energy sources, and including existing incinerators in Class I (or creating a special class just for CRRA) wastes ratepayer money with no additional value.

As the state ramps up its nation-leading recycling, producer take back, composting and anaerobic digestion programs, the economics of trash incineration will likely worsen. The legislature should not pick winners on waste and wrongly elevate incineration above source reduction and recycling.

The proposal in this bill would not only create a special tier which appears to only apply to CRRA, but also set a minimum price of 4.5 cents/kwh, which all ratepayers in Connecticut would have to pay to CRRA, regardless of whether their town contracts with CRRA. There is no guarantee that this bailout will keep CRRA solvent, as it appears increasingly uncompetitive compared to its rivals, and towns continue to abandon it.

We urge the Energy and Technology Committee not to pervert the state's energy policy to prop up a failed solid waste policy. There are holistic solutions to our waste issues that should be addressed by DEEP and the Environment Committee.