



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
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Before the Energy Committee
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment in *support* of **HB-6531, AN ACT PRESERVING AND RETAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF IN-STATE RESOURCES RECOVERY FACILITIES**, which defines in-state trash-to-energy facilities without bonded indebtedness as Class IIA renewable energy sources, and establishes a temporary market for renewable attributes of such sources.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *strongly supports* **HB-6531**, which will help control escalating tipping fees borne by municipalities by reclassifying trash to energy plant electricity as class IIA, which increases the value of energy. This issue was identified by COST members as a top priority for 2013.

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 Class II-A, such plants would have a reliable revenue stream. Without this fix, plants may be unable to continue operations, forcing towns to pursue out-of-state landfill alternatives.

COST therefore urges support for HB-6531