



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.

Harvest Power is one of North America's largest recyclers of organic material, with more than 2 million metric tons of waste processed per year across 28 sites, including our GreenCycle subsidiary operating in Ellington, Farmington, and Fairfield, Connecticut. We accept a wide variety of organic wastes and convert them into high value soil products. Additionally, we deploy the latest and most innovative Anaerobic Digestion technology that take these same waste streams and converts them into reliable, renewable energy, along with organic composts and fertilizers to renew our soils. With its strong commitment to the environment, progressive policies and strong economy, we see Connecticut as one of the most promising regions to expand our business.

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 recycling infrastructure unless it knows the recycled material stream will be available, while government is reluctant to mandate recycling unless it knows that adequate infrastructure exists. In adopting P.A. 11-217 Connecticut found a way out of this dilemma by creating a mechanism whereby the existence of sufficient processing capacity triggers a mandate for larger organic waste generators to divert their waste to recycling. In concept, private sector businesses, such as Harvest, 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. Raised 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 gives 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 separate 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Davis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Wayne Davis

Vice President Government Affairs