



Specializing in Waste Management Solutions • Handling All Grades of Recyclables & Refuse

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF**

**THOMAS DEVIVO AND TIMOTHY DEVIVO,
CO-OWNERS, WILLIMANTIC WASTE PAPER CO., INC.**

**REGARDING
SENATE BILL 27: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING AND
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

March 7, 2014

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and Members of the Environment Committee, we offer this testimony to you as private business owners who, along with my other members of our family, employ some 280 people in the recycling and waste management business in Eastern Connecticut.

We fully support the Legislature's efforts to encourage the reuse, recycling and diversion of solid waste and to revise the state-wide solid waste management plan. We also appreciate the State's efforts to review the operations of the CRRA to ensure its viability. The establishment of a Recycle CT Foundation is particularly interesting for us, as we believe it will streamline the states and the industry's efforts to educate the public about recycling and its benefits, and thereby improve participation rates statewide.

As you are well aware, the recycling industry currently is tightly-regulated by the State, competitive, and populated with dozens of small and large companies statewide employing thousands of people and investing millions of dollars -- all private. Willimantic Waste Paper's concern with SB 27, and by extension the concerns of our 280 employees, revolve around the increasing degree to which the State is attempting to meet its goals through even more direct, and in some instances indirect, state regulation and state involvement in the recycling industry. For example, the ability of the State to solicit proposals for recycling services on behalf of municipalities may disrupt the competitive bidding processes that municipalities now use, and down the road may even lead to State selection of bidders or vendors which will result in a loss of investment and jobs in Connecticut.

We urge the Legislature to take a closer look at SB27 and the great degree to which it empowers the State and state-sanctioned authorities to further regulate the robust solid waste management systems in the state. We are confident that our shared goal of enhancing efforts for environmentally safe and effective waste management can be reached without continued state intervention and potential state displacement of private enterprise.