



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 7, 2014  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary and Deputy Commissioner Katie Dykes

**Governor’s Bill No. 27 – AN ACT CONCERNING AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT’S RECYCLING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Governor’s Bill No. 27 – AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT’S RECYCLING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) strongly supports this bill and welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

This proposal strategically focuses on reforms that provide clearer signals on the state’s interest in pursuing forward thinking strategies for managing Connecticut’s waste to maximize the resource and its economic value. Among other changes, this bill:

- Establishes a successor entity to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRRA), to be known as the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA), with a new focus on modern, innovative approaches to materials management;
- Increases the state’s diversion goal and requires an update to the state-wide solid waste management plan goal of achieving a 60 percent diversion rate;
- Establishes a new nonprofit foundation (Recycle CT Foundation, Inc.) to promote and conduct activities related to research and state wide recycling education and promotion;
- Seeks issuance of a request for proposals (RFP), in concert with CRRRA/MIRA, to examine new technologies and/or uses of the Connecticut Solid Waste Management System Project in order to close infrastructure gaps and increase diversion rates consistent with the state's goal;
- Simplifies a number of CRRRA/MIRA responsibilities/authorities;
- Clarifies the state’s ability to solicit proposals from electric suppliers for electric service with waste-to-energy facilities through its existing purchasing pool if such proposals offer a competitive price and further the state’s overall materials management policy. These purchasing options will be optional for municipalities and they may opt in to such arrangements if they find them advantageous.

While Connecticut has been progressive in its investments in infrastructure that promote recovery of materials for recycling and energy, there is a heavy reliance on waste-to-energy facilities and opportunities for investing in improved infrastructure. Connecticut is recycling only half of the materials that could be recycled. These materials are valuable and the economic benefit is not fully realized in the current waste management system. This proposal recognizes the need and the opportunity to advance materials management in Connecticut beyond current levels of recycling and recovery. Consistent with the state-wide solid waste management plan, insights and recommendations from the three Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Materials Management Summits<sup>1</sup>, the Governor's Modernizing Recycling Workgroup<sup>2</sup> and the Resources Recovery Taskforce<sup>3</sup>, this proposal continues the state's shift in view from waste management to materials management and the need to center Connecticut's commitment on improving our waste diversion efforts. With innovation, funding and development of infrastructure to close specific sector capacity gaps, while also building markets of scale, Connecticut can optimize source reduction, reuse and recycling as well as recover materials that could be used in the production of new items rather than be recovered for energy.

We are pleased with the attention and work brought to bear on this subject over the past few years and are happy to work with the Governor's Office, committee members and stakeholders to refine this proposal and make as effective as possible.

We will share with the Committee some suggested substitute language to clarify the name of the foundation established in the bill to be the Recycle CT Foundation, Inc.; afford the DEEP Commissioner some additional discretion in oversight of the procurement process; and other technical language changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov)).

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<sup>1</sup> Materials Management Summit Series homepage

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=501588&deepNAV\\_GID=1645](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=501588&deepNAV_GID=1645)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Governor's Modernizing Recycling Working Group December 27, 2012

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste\\_management\\_and\\_disposal/solid\\_waste/transforming\\_matls\\_mgm\\_t/gov\\_recycling\\_work\\_group/report\\_dec\\_27\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste/transforming_matls_mgm_t/gov_recycling_work_group/report_dec_27_2012.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Resources Recovery Taskforce Final Report December 13, 2013

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste\\_management\\_and\\_disposal/solid\\_waste/transforming\\_matls\\_mgm\\_t/resources\\_recovery\\_task\\_force/rtrf\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste/transforming_matls_mgm_t/resources_recovery_task_force/rtrf_final_report.pdf)