



My name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative representative for Council 4 and I would like to elaborate on Mr. Facey's statement. CRRA has been extremely poorly managed. That is one of the reasons, if not the prime reason, why **SB 27** is before you today.

We urge that the committee:

- 1) **Ensure that this bill creates an entirely new agency.** If this is not possible please make sure that there is strong oversight of the agency. CRRA's current board model has not worked at all and has been something of a rubber stamp. DEEP expertise might help on the board. The regular citizen members of the board seem to be at the mercy of CRRA staff opinion and lack the expertise required to understand the impact of what CRRA management is doing.
- 2) **Conduct an extensive review of why CRRA has been such a disaster over the last ten years and please make sure that there is appropriate state supervision of it.**
- 3) **Make sure that the top management of any new agency must come before the legislature for appointment (or reappointment).**
- 4) **Make sure that the new agency cannot hire a contract lobbyist or a pseudo contract lobbyist as CRRA has done with the contract for "community liaison."**
- 5) **Make sure that CRRA management cannot spend down its reserves before first putting sufficient reserves away for the pension and OPEB costs earned by the MDC workers that it employed for 27 years.**
- 6) **Make sure that there is appropriate handling, monitoring and policing of the solid waste (or material) stream by public employees.** It would appear that CRRA operation was less costly when public employees did transfer station truck shipment, weight scale operation, plant operation and other work. When this was privatized out truck overweight violations increased by several hundred percent (this was proved by truck weight tickets and was reported on by the Hartford Courant.) Public employees should monitor any weight scales at transfer stations, dumps or the like. CRRA employed a privateer who was a hauler to run its scales. The hauler was able to police its own trucks' weights as well as those of its competitors. There are radiation detectors on the doors of the Mid-CT Project. Radioactive medical material and other dangerous substances are sometimes illegally dumped into the waste stream. Burning such contaminated material could touch off a severe medical crisis for the surrounding neighborhoods and also increase cancer rates. MDC staff would completely strip the load of any truck that set off the detector. Now this function is in the hands of a privatized operator, who theoretically earns more by rushing waste through quickly.

Under President Tom Kirk's management CRRA has virtually been destroyed or privatized away. We urge that in reconstituting CRRA that it not just be a name change. Certainly, the CRRA top management should be replaced. There have been so many bad decisions made by this management that is hard to know where to begin. Let me address the abuses that we are most familiar with.

CRRA privatized out the ownership or management of four of its four trash to energy facilities, yet it has maintained an over 50 member staff for much of the time. This is very close to the size of the staff when it was actually managing the facilities that it privatized.

Our union repeatedly warned Tom Kirk and top CRRA staff that privatizing the Mid-CT Project would result in a disaster. The project is a complex plant that needs constant, detailed upkeep. After telling the state legislature that he opposed privatizing the Mid-CT Project, President Kirk broke his word and privatized out the plant to NAES a Japanese corporation's subsidiary. NAES had never run a plant, such as the Mid-CT Project, before. As we predicted, it took a very short time for the plant to fall into disarray and basically stop functioning.

President Kirk has repeatedly made statements to the General Assembly that have been proven to be untrue. President Kirk wrote to the General Assembly that "No one will lose a job..." as a result of his privatization of the Mid-Connecticut Project's operation. Our union explained to Mr. Kirk how it would and Mr. Kirk did not argue with our explanation, knowing full well that layoffs would result. But this did not stop him from giving incorrect information to the legislature. Twenty of our members were laid off. CRRA staff also told legislators that workers at the Mid-CT Project would be paid the same and receive comparable benefits as the MDC workers had. The pay and benefits are lesser. At a time when the U.S. Census bureau reports that half of Americans are working poor, cutting workers' wages and benefits is a big deal.

Mr. Kirk testified explicitly that he opposed privatization of the Mid-Connecticut Project at a Legislative and Program Review Committee hearing in September, 2008. He said repeatedly at the hearing that he opposed the privatization of this facility, quote "With private control, a supply-constrained market will allow Connecticut capacity to be used for other states' waste, leaving Connecticut consumers dependent upon and paying more to ship their waste to environmentally less desirable landfills hundreds of miles to the west." Now, due to CRRA's action or inaction, two private corporations with troubled histories run most of Connecticut's resources recovery infrastructure.

After having repeatedly asked, including before committees of the General Assembly for Mr. Kirk to publicly report on what his annual pay, perks and benefits are, we never received a discernible answer. CRRA appears to operate in secret, yet it is a government agency. After our repeated complaints, Jon Lender of the Hartford Courant was able to find that Mr. Kirk is one of the highest paid state employees – and yet he has failed miserably at his job.

There are many other abuses that Mr. Kirk is responsible for: mismanagement of rate payer equipment, setting up a severance pay fund for top management in the midst of an operational crisis, setting up a scheme to thwart state law that prevents CRRA from hiring a lobbyist (this

has resulted in yet another costly law suit that wastes ratepayer and state taxpayer funds) and abusing open government meeting law.

At some point we have to ask when does the madness end? When will state officials step forward and demand a full accounting of what has led to CRRA's demise and when do we take what is left of the CRRA out of the hands of the very people who destroyed it. We believe in recycling, but recycling CRRA's top management is a mistake.