



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CONNECTICUT, INC.®**

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**Environment Committee
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Submitted by Lynn Taborsak, Public Issues Specialist
in support of

SB 27: AAC Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of 1600 members in 27 local chapters who are committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government.

The League has consistently supported statewide recycling policies and environmentally safe waste management. In the past, we have joined with other organizations to support passage of the state's successful paint recycling, mattress recycling and mercury thermostat recycling programs.

SB 27 boldly raises the state's goal for reuse and recycling from 25% to 60% of the solid waste generated in the state. It also provides an infrastructure that can modernize and manage the state's solid waste and promote and expand recycling to new areas that will help to reduce the state's volume of solid waste. It is exciting to see the DEEP proposing composting of organic material, fuel recovery and other innovative processes. It replaces the CRRA with a more robust, strategic authority, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority and directs them to contract for solid waste management services and develop a Mid-Connecticut Solid Waste Project.

SB 27 also contains two interesting energy provisions. It will allow municipalities to purchase electricity from the state's purchasing pool at more competitive rates. It also allows the DEEP to purchase long-term contracts for Class II Renewable Energy that we can capture from incinerators that burn Connecticut's solid waste.

SB 27 also establishes a Recycle CT Foundation and a Recycle CT Foundation Council in Section 4. It is very important to balance the industry's appetite for tonnage and tipping fees with an entity that will insist we reduce tonnage and reuse or recycle more materials.

There are many excellent provisions in SB 27, perhaps too many for a short session of the legislature. We encourage you to remain focused on meeting the state's need for environmentally sound, cost effective solid waste management.

Thank you for your consideration.