



# CCM 2014 Testimony

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## ***ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **SB 27 "An Act Concerning Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management Strategy"**

CCM has concerns with SB 27 and asks the Committee to amend the proposal before considering further action.

SB 27, among other things, would make changes to the governing structure of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) and reconstitute it as the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA), and position the authority to continue to provide cost effective disposal and recycling services to municipalities across the state. SB 27 would also update the State's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) to increase the recycling and reuse of 60% of the solid waste generated in the state by 2024. CCM supports the efforts to ensure that municipalities have an affordable, efficient and stable means of disposing of solid waste generated throughout the state, and supports initiatives to increase the recycling and reuse of solid waste.

Towns and cities have expressed concerns about the potential impact of SB 27 on tipping fees and opt out fees. CCM urges the Committee to amend SB 27 to specify that current Municipal Service Agreements (MSAs) will be maintained with their current opt-out provisions and pricing protection for towns.

CCM further recommends amending Sec. 9 (2) to state that the Commissioner of DEEP shall rather than may consult with a municipality, to structure any agreement for the provision of such processing or management to allow any municipality to join as a party on a voluntary basis.

The disposal of solid waste is one of the most vital services provided by towns and cities to their residents; as such CCM looks forward to working with the Committee, DEEP and other interested stakeholders to ensure that municipalities are best positioned to provide cost efficient and reliable service to their residents.



If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.