

**Testimony of Tom Swan**

**Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)**

**Environment Committee**

**ON SB 27**

**March 7, 2014**

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and other members of the Environment Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's over 20,000 member families I want to thank you for raising and the Governor for proposing SB 27 AAC CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY. CCAG has longed believed that Connecticut placed too much of an emphasis on incinerating our waste. SB 27 acknowledges that and establishes a framework for us to development a longer term strategy that would rely on reducing the amount of waste we create, and composting and recycling more of our waste.

The closing of the Hartford incinerator and calling on DEEP to develop a new waste management plan by date specific are arguably the most significant pieces of this proposal. While we strongly support this proposal there are several aspects we like to see strengthened:

- While the emphasis on recycling and composting are very good, there should be a higher priority placed on waste reduction.
- We should establish goals beyond 2024 for waste diversion and agree with ConnPIRG's call to have the goal be 80% by 2030.
- There should be a clear opportunities for public participation and reporting requirements to the legislature to ensure adequate oversight.

In closing I was to reemphasize how pleased CCAG is with this proposal, including the renaming, restructuring, and repurposing the CT Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA). This is clearly turning a page away from an overreliance on burning our waste and a history of corruption towards a more sustainable future.

Thank you.

