

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**February 4, 2015**

SB 349 – AAC SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT PLASTIC  
AND PAPER BAGS AND THE USE OF REUSANBLE BAGS

Testimony Submitted By:

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Murphy Road Recycling, LLC

Good morning Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and distinguished members of the Environment Committee, my name is Jonathan Murray, and I am the Director of Operations for Murphy Road Recycling, LLC. I submit this testimony for the purpose of expressing caution with regard to the provisions contained in Raised Bill 349, entitled “An Act Concerning Single-Use Carryout Plastic and Paper Bags and the Use of Reusable Bags.”

Murphy Road Recycling, LLC is headquartered in Enfield, Connecticut and has operations throughout the state. Over the course of the last several years, Murphy Road has made a significant financial commitment to the recycling industry and is one of the staunchest advocates for single-stream recycling, a system in which all recyclable materials are placed, unsorted, in one container and then sorted at, among other places, a Murphy Road facility. The net effect of single-stream recycling is to increase the rates of recycling because of the simplicity and ease of the system. I am confident that the Committee recognizes the significant benefits that have been realized as a result of the introduction of the single-stream system.

As noted above, once the commingled, recyclable material is delivered to a facility, it must be sorted and separated. In its facilities located throughout the State, Murphy Road has invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art equipment that allows it to separate the recyclable materials into the different components (i.e., paper, glass, plastic, etc...). In order for a facility to be the most productive and handle the ever-increasing volume of recyclable material, this equipment must operate efficiently and effectively. Malfunctioning and inoperable equipment hampers our efforts to achieve the goals that we have set as well as the goals which policymakers have established with respect to recycling rates. In addition, when the machinery is inoperable, there is an expense associated with the required repair of that equipment as well as the expense associated with that equipment being off-line.

The plastic bags that are the subject of this bill are a troublesome additive to the single-stream process since the processes utilized and the state-of-the-art equipment available are not equipped to handle this type of material. As a practical matter, these plastic bags become entangled in the equipment and cause the machinery to malfunction and breakdown.

Although the bill before the Committee contemplates the elimination of these single-use plastic bags from the waste stream, we also are aware that, in the course of the legislative

process, amendments to the bill's provisions generally occur. Given the problems that these single-use plastic bags cause with respect to the machinery, we respectfully request that, in the event amendments occur to this bill, single-use plastic bags not be included in the categories of items that are required to be deposited into the recycling stream.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.