

TESTIMONY
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Good morning Chairman Duff, Chairwoman Janowski, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in order to assist in the confirmation process for my reappointment to the recently re-named MIRA board of directors.

My name is Ralph Eno. I am First Selectman in the Town of Lyme and have served in this capacity for almost 20 years. I have also served on the CRRRA/MIRA board of directors for the past couple of years. This has been both a challenging and rewarding time during which the organization has dealt with mandates to develop a sustainability model, change its name and pass landfill closure and monitoring responsibilities on to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, including the transfer of financial reserves intended for this purpose to the State of Connecticut.

There is much that remains to be done. Legislation passed last session charges DEEP with responsibility for developing a new Solid Waste Management Plan for Connecticut. While MIRA's municipal client base has diminished, it is still the entity best suited to assist with that process given its responsibility for oversight of the previous plan and willingness to partner in creating a new vision for solid waste disposal and recycling in Connecticut.

One of the primary responsibilities for any municipal CEO is to make sure the MSW generated within our borders is disposed of in both an environmentally sound and cost effect fashion. We must avoid trucking and out of state landfilling as any new plan unfolds. To that end, MIRA remains the preferred option for leading the state in developing and facilitating ambitious new recycling and trash disposal objectives.

I very much wish to continue to serve during this sensitive time and respectfully request your support for reappointment.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.