

**Town of Barkhamsted  
Incorporated 1779**

**Testimony of First Selectman Donald S. Stein to the  
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, January 20, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Duff, Chairman Janowski, Ranking Member Kane, Ranking Member Buck-Taylor, and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

Thank you for the honor of appearing before the Committee and being given the opportunity to speak to you today regarding my re-nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority. I am currently serving as the Chairman of this Board of Directors and am dedicated to making MIRA an agency that continually strives to better serve the state of Connecticut, its municipalities and residents.

First, I would like to provide my personal background for your consideration. I first appeared before this committee in 2011 when Senator McKinney nominated me for a seat on the CRRA Board of Directors. Prior to that, I was elected as the First Selectman of Barkhamsted in 2007, after many years of volunteer service to the Town, and am now in my fourth term. I am currently the Chairman of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, representing 21 towns in the northwest corner of Connecticut, and am a member of the Boards of Directors of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut and the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation. The Town of Barkhamsted does not have a town manager, so I am the full-time Chief Elected Official, with responsibility for all aspects of town government.

During the past 4 years, I have worked with the Governor's office, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Legislature, and a number of other city and town leaders to better align CRRA/MIRA with the State goals and to address the municipalities' concerns about budgetary issues and customer service. During this past Legislative Session, I spent many hours with Luke Bronin, the Governor's legal counsel, and with Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary, working with them to help the Legislature craft the legislation that transformed CRRA into MIRA. This legislature and its mandates are expected to be instrumental in enabling the State of Connecticut to continue to be a leader in environmentally sound materials management.

Prior to my election, I was employed by United Technologies Corporation for 37 years in a variety of senior management positions, primarily at Hamilton Sundstrand, now United Technologies Aerospace Systems, in Windsor Locks. During the latter part of my career, I was responsible for strategic planning, business development and project management for multi-million dollar aerospace programs. After my retirement from UTC in July 2006, I consulted for several small businesses, focusing on new business development relative to aerospace and alternate energy. Throughout my career, I was responsible for managing budgets, supervising employees and understanding the technical details of our products. I worked with all levels of the organization, from union employees and engineers, up to senior corporate executives.

**Town of Barkhamsted**  
**Incorporated 1779**

On a personal level, I grew up in a suburb of New York City and moved to Connecticut in 1970. I have Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and have taken management courses at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, the University of Virginia, and Rensselaer at Hartford. I have lived in Barkhamsted since 1975 and have been married to my wife Linda for over 33 years. Our family includes three children and four grandchildren. We are very happy that one of these families, including two of the grandchildren, still resides in Barkhamsted.

If I'm fortunate enough to receive the approval of this committee and that of the General Assembly, I look forward to continue leading the MIRA board and staff towards the goal of implementing an economical, environmentally sound approach that minimizes the disposal of solid waste, maximizes the reuse of recyclables, and generates useful byproducts throughout the State. We are at a particularly crucial moment as one of our major revenue streams, the sale of electricity, has been significantly reduced due to low natural gas prices, which then produce low electrical prices. In addition, our physical plant and the technology that is used for generating electricity from solid waste are well past their prime and the plant is expensive to maintain. Therefore, we are quite pleased to be working with the DEEP to select the replacement for the South Meadows facility. A fiscally prudent approach that satisfies the need to reduce disposal requirements by increasing revenue streams from recycling, composting or other means, is mandatory and we need to accomplish this goal very much in the very near term

I am quite pleased to be again be given the opportunity to work with MIRA's staff and the DEEP to help enable the State to continue to be a national leader in the environmental management of solid waste. In particular, this collaboration is expected to result in reduced waste disposal, increased recycling, and the elimination of much of the combustion of solid waste in favor of alternates, such as composting and other technologies that can produce byproducts other than ash and steam. It is gratifying that Governor Malloy, the Legislature and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection were willing to take bold steps to take Connecticut's solid waste and materials management forward into the 21st century. This transformation is more than a name change to MIRA, but reflects a significant desire on the part of our State's leadership to transform the State's disposal systems into one which extracts as many useful byproducts as possible.

The MIRA is ready to provide its expertise and to be a partner with the State leaders and the municipalities to ensure that Connecticut continues to be a leader in materials management.

I would like to thank Senator McKinney for re-appointing me to this important Board of Directors, and I appreciate your attention. I would also welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have for me.