

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Thursday, March 10, 2016

TESTIMONY

Good Day Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My Name is Robert L. Painter . It is an honor and a privilege to be appointed as a full member of the Board of the Materials and Innovation Recycling Authority by Governor Dannel P. Malloy and may I offer my thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my desire to serve on that Board.

Although I lived as a Hoosier until I finished medical school, I have been a Nutmegger since 1959 except for two years as Chief of Surgery at an Air Force Hospital and one year of additional training in cardiovascular surgery in Houston, Texas where the most notable event was being on the small team that performed the first successful heart transplant in the United States.

23 years of private surgical practice in Northeast Connecticut, over 7 years as Chairman and Director of the Department of Surgery at Saint Francis and Mount Sinai, as well as 30 years as Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at UCONN followed, after which I retired.

After two years to catch my breath and a stimulating job with Census 2000, I ran for and was elected to the Hartford City Council. It was this responsibility which included watching the aftermath of the ENRON debacle and listening to the ire of the residents of north Hartford over their exposure to their troubles with seagulls and odors from the landfill that I developed an interest in what at that time was called CRRA. That grew into an interest in possible new technologies which would clearly become necessary at the trash to energy plant. To that end I arranged for researchers at Georgia Tech to come to Hartford to talk to the City and CRRA about plasma arc as a potential future modality at the plant.

Appreciating my interest in CRRA, Mayor Perez nominated and Governor Rell appointed me to the Board of CRRA as an ad hoc member. I have continued my interest and increased my knowledge of the technical side of that operation in the more than 10 years since, have been impressed with the present Board and management of the facility, and of the cooperation between MIRA and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as we look to the future.

I respectfully request that the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee confirm my appointment as a full member of the MIRA Board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you.

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