



QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEE TO MIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MATERIALS INNOVATION AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY (MIRA) (CGS §§ [22A-260A](#), [22A-261](#), AND [22A-262](#))

- MIRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA).
- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members, and the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint two members.
- Three members must represent towns with a population of 50,000 or fewer and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five members represent the public and must have extensive, high level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.
- Members serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses. The governor designates one member to serve as chairman, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairman serves at the governor's pleasure.



- The chairman, with approval of the board of directors, appoints MIRA's president, who supervises the authority's administrative affairs and technical activities.

QUESTIONS

General

1. This board appointment is for an individual with high level experience in the energy field. What particular experience, expertise, and other assets will you bring to the board?
2. What do you believe will be the most pressing issues for MIRA's board this year concerning energy generation? What issues will you promote during your tenure on the board?
3. How does energy pricing for this fiscal year (\$/Kwh) compare to pricing of the past few years?
4. How much fiscal flexibility does MIRA have if there is a downturn in energy prices?

Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Legislation passed in 2014 ([PA 14-94](#)) requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to consult with MIRA when soliciting proposals to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project.

According to DEEP's [website](#), the goal is to make MIRA's facilities and contracted tonnages available for a new system to help the state divert 60% of materials from landfilling or combustion by 2024.

- a. What is the status of the redevelopment project?
 - b. Do you envision a shift away from trash-to-energy to other methods of solid waste management? If so, which ones?
 - c. Do you believe the state's goal of diverting 60% of materials is attainable? What are the primary impediments to meeting this goal?
2. During your tenure at the legislature, you sponsored several pieces of legislation to establish "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) programs for managing certain products when they are no longer used or wanted. These programs generally require producers to take back their products and are funded by a fee charged at a product's purchase. Is this a model of solid waste management that can be applied to all consumer products?

3. A bill ([SB 312](#)) being heard before the legislature this session proposes a study on replacing the state's five-cent deposit on beverage containers with a nonrefundable four-cent recycling fee to be used to promote recycling and anti-littering programs. What changes to the state's beverage redemption law, if any, do you believe would increase the recycling of these containers?
4. Please compare the solid waste management systems of unit-based pricing ("Pay-As-You-Throw") and single-stream recycling, in terms of their impact on (1) recycling rates and (2) reducing solid waste disposal.
5. What are the most effective ways to educate residents about proper solid waste disposal and recycling?
6. What is your vision for how solid waste should be managed in Connecticut? Are there technologies or management options used in other states that MIRA should consider replicating?

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