



QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEE TO MIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By: Kristen Miller, Senior Legislative Attorney

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 full 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.
- The governor also appoints ad hoc members to represent the facilities operated by the authority. Each facility must be represented by two such members, with at least half being chief municipal elected officials, or their designees. The ad hoc members must be electors from municipalities served by the facility. They may vote only on matters concerning the facility.
- 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 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. You previously served as an ad hoc member on MIRA's board representing the Connecticut Solid Waste System. How do you envision your role on the board changing with this nomination to serve as a full board member?
2. An ad hoc member's role is limited to representing a specific facility MIRA operates. Do you believe that ad hoc members are still needed on the board? How influential are ad hoc members?
3. How much fiscal flexibility does MIRA have when the authority's expenses increase or energy or commodity prices decline?
4. How has MIRA's experience been with operating the solar energy generation facility on top of the closed Hartford landfill?
5. What do you see as MIRA's most important short- and long-term goals?

Solid Waste and Recycling

1. How should solid waste be managed in Connecticut? Are there technologies or management options used in other states that MIRA should consider replicating?
2. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection recently released its draft Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy to update the state's Solid Waste Management Plan.

To reach the state's materials management goal of diverting 60% of materials from disposal by 2024, the strategy calls for, among other things, (1) outreach and education to increase single-stream recycling and (2) implementing unit-based pricing approaches (also known as "pay-as-you-throw").

- a. How do unit-based pricing and single-stream recycling compare in terms of their impact on recycling rates and reducing solid waste disposal?

- b. Do you believe the goal of diverting 60% of materials is attainable? What do you believe will be MIRA's role in helping to reach this goal?
 - c. What forms of outreach and education to the general public about solid waste disposal and recycling do you believe are the most effective?
- 3. In recent years, the state has implemented several "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) programs to manage certain products, such as paint and mattresses, 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.
 - a. Are there other products that could be managed in a similar manner?
 - b. What are the pros and cons of EPR programs?

KM:cym