3/7/2019

Re: HB 7293

Environment Committee
Co-Chair Christine Cohen
Co-Chair Mike Demicco

Senators/ Representatives,

I write to voice my opposition to HB 7293. I do so as this is counter to the interest of those Towns who have voluntarily joined MIRA, formerly CRRA, in order to create an authority to dispose of household waste in a cost effective and environmentally favorable manner.

MIRA, as it currently exists, is run by a Board of Directors chosen by the CEO’s of the participating municipalities who consult and take direction from the membership. The model that we established was a trash to energy one that existed and effectively work well for many years when it was known as CRRA. Several years ago the CTDEEP changed that model, hence MIRA, and also devalued the value of the commodity that we sell which created a disadvantage and raised cost for the municipalities. CTDEEP required that an RFQ go out to seek private enterprise to manage the operation. CTDEEP also chose the winner of that RFQ and required MIRA and its member municipalities to enter into a contract. MIRA, through its Board of Directors, has negotiated with the chosen firm for quite some time, but to date has been unable to negotiate terms that the membership can accept.

This bill, as proposed, would force the hand of MIRA to enter into a contract that we deem unfavorable. We the municipalities would lose control of our organization and costs would likely rise unfavorably. This would require local Mayors and First Selectman to begin to look elsewhere for their ultimate disposal service.

I doubt that this is the outcome that this Committee seeks. Reject this bill and possibly require that MIRA solicit new vendors through a new RFQ that is created by the Board of Directors of MIRA with input from its membership and allow us to negotiate the terms.

Respectfully,
Edmond V. Mone/First Selectman