Good morning Co-Chair Rep. Demicco, Senator Cohen and members of the Environment Committee.

I am here today to voice my concern with HB 7293, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES.

As one of 50-51 municipalities that are reliant on MIRA for our solid waste disposal and recycling I have a great deal of concern of the potential effects of HB 7293. MIRA, the predecessor of successor to CRRA having been created in 1973, has served the member towns well over the years via a net cost of operations model which has allowed towns like Goshen to meet its responsibility, while containing costs as much as reasonably possible.

HB 7293 will up end that process by requiring MIRA to enter into a contract which its Board of Directors has been determined is not in the best interest of its member municipalities, and is not consistent with current state statute in particular:

Sec. 22a-265 (3) Make and enter into any contract or agreement necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers or:

Sec. 22a-265 (11) Otherwise, do all things necessary for the performance of its duties, the fulfillment of its obligations, the conduct of its operations, the maintenance of its working relationships with municipalities, regions and persons, and the conduct of a comprehensive program for reuse, recycling, solid waste disposal and resources recovery, and for solid waste management services, in accordance with the provisions of the state-wide solid waste management plan, applicable statutes and regulations and the requirements of this chapter;

This usurpation of the powers of the MIRA Board and municipalities should be rejected and the process of finding a reasonable and affordable successor to the South Meadows waste to energy facility and recycling facility currently operated by MIRA should be given time to be worked out by those who will be most affected by any decision.

I encourage this committee to reject HB 7293 in its entirety.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this very important issue,

Respectfully,

Robert P. Valentine
First Selectman, Goshen, Connecticut