



February 21, 2025

Connecticut Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 6917 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE IN THE STATE.

Dear Members of the Connecticut Environment Committee,

As the Executive Director of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA), I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6917 – An Act Concerning the Management of Solid Waste in the State – with some suggested changes. It is imperative that the State act decisively on solid waste if it hopes to attain self-sufficiency for managing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). Food waste is estimated to make up approximately 22% of the MSW stream which equates to around 180,000 tons of the material that is currently being shipped out of state for disposal. HB 6917 is an opportunity to begin to seriously position the State to attain self-sufficiency.

While the bill addresses food waste diversion from commercial and institutional producers, it lacks direction regarding residential waste. I advocate for adding source separated organics to the list of state mandated recyclable materials. This could be accomplished with a phased-in approach that would facilitate the development of the necessary organics recycling infrastructure.

Additionally, the bill needs to define the term “resource recovery facility” to clearly state the facilities paying the waste assessment fee. Historically, this term has referred to waste facilities that generate energy as a by-product. I would suggest that this should also apply to facilities that transfer MSW out of the state for disposal elsewhere (40% of the state’s MSW volume) and should not apply to facilities that recycle waste. This change would send a more appropriate message not to waste but to reduce, reuse and recycle instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

David Aldridge
Executive Director