



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised Senate Bill 127 "An Act Concerning Recycling and Solid Waste Management."

Among other things, this bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection to amend their regulations to expand the list of mandated recyclables to include certain plastics, boxboard, and additional types of paper.

CCM has always been supportive of measures that would encourage increased recycling in Connecticut and applaud DEP for completing a statewide survey of municipal solid waste and recycling efforts. However, we are concerned that municipalities might be faced with limited or no options for in-state disposal of these items. The lack of in-state disposal options would require hauling these items to out-of-state facilities, which could outweigh any tip-fee savings achieved by eliminating them from the solid waste stream.

In order to protect against this, **CCM urges the committee to have these new items be effective upon adequate in-state disposal options.** This could be accomplished in the same manner as is currently provided in the bill for composting "*not later than six months after the establishment of service in the state by two or more facilities*" – or – as provided in CGS 22a-256a for nickel-cadmium batteries that such items begin to be recycled "*within three months of the establishment of service to such municipality by a regional processing center or local processing system.*"

CCM looks forward to working with the Committee and proponents of this bill to achieve increased recycling goals without imposing new costs on any municipality.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
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