



Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 11
AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELIABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMIC
VITALITY OF THE STATE'S WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

Environment Committee Public Hearing - Friday March 6, 2020

To: Honored Co-Chairs, Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco, and distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, represents 11 Municipalities in Western Connecticut (*Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman*).

The HRRRA believes that SB 11 acknowledges the challenges we are facing with solid waste and recycling in the State of Connecticut.

The HRRRA supports:

- Modifying the goals of waste management pounds per capita of residential municipal solid waste.
- Authorizing DEEP to issue RFPs for new, improved, or expanded waste facilities and various waste facility alternatives.
- DEEP submitting recommendations for recycled content requirements for consumer products sold in the state. This will potentially create a long over-due supply and demand effect for recyclables. It is our hope that a recommendation from DEEP will lead to the creation of content legislation. This type of legislation has proven successful in other states to create a demand for post-consumer recycled content which positively impacts recycling markets.
- The Material Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) to submit a five-year plan for reliable cost and effective service including providing municipal solid waste management services required by municipalities under contract. The MIRA solid waste authority has a rippling effect on the rest of the state. We see the importance of MIRA being independently strong and healthy in order to avoid unintended consequences with non-MIRA municipalities.
- The HRRRA supports modifying trash hauler reporting to collect better data on the status of waste management in the state.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Heaton-Jones, Executive Director