



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD**  
**CONNECTICUT**

WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.  
MAYOR

December 18, 2008

45 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492  
TELEPHONE 203 294-2070  
FAX 203 294-2073

Mr. Michael Pace  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority  
100 Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Chairman Pace:

Mr. Chairman, Members of the CRRA Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is William Dickinson, and I serve as Mayor of the Town of Wallingford. The Policy Board of the Wallingford project is made up of representatives from the Town of Cheshire, the Town of Hamden, the City of Meriden, the Town of North Haven, and the Town of Wallingford. All five towns have executed an agreement with Covanta, the current operator of the Wallingford facility, for disposal of municipal solid waste at the Wallingford facility starting July 1, 2010. The five towns have participated in a lengthy evaluation process to determine whether the Covanta proposal or the CRRA proposal are in the best interest of the towns and the region. The evaluation process involved public discussions and meetings in all five towns. We have arrived at the conclusion that the Covanta proposal is in the best interests of each town and our region. The towns by state law, Section 22a-220, are obligated to provide a place for lawful disposal of solid waste. We believe that the Covanta contract enables us to comply with that obligation and is in our best interest.

We appreciate CRRA's services and efforts on our behalf. However, unless CRRA is able to conclusively explain why the Covanta contract is not in our interest, we do not understand why the CRRA Board of Directors seeks to purchase the Wallingford facility and render our contracts with Covanta a nullity. Section 22a-259(4) of the CGS provides as a declaration of state policy "that private industry is to be utilized to the maximum extent feasible to perform planning, design management, construction, operation, manufacturing and marketing functions related to solid waste disposal and resources recovery and to assist in the development of industrial enterprise based upon resources

recovery, recycling and reuse;". The General Assembly commissioned a study by the Program Review and Investigations Committee in 2008 regarding ownership of resource recovery facilities and options. Section 3 of a staff briefing report, page 23, states "A review of the legislative history shows that one of the main reasons CRRA was created was to provide a vehicle to encourage a regional approach to solid waste management through voluntary decisions on the part of towns to utilize the services of CRRA." We believe that the Covanta contract is in compliance with State policy as well as the mission of CRRA. We request that unless CRRA can explain how the five towns have failed to properly serve their citizens and their region, the CRRA Board of Directors take the appropriate action and cease efforts to purchase the Wallingford facility from Covanta. The cost of the purchase will only be added expense on future tip fees which the towns and its citizens must pay. )

Respectfully submitted,



William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor

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