



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Paul Aresta
Executive Director

February 26, 2023

Re: House Bill 6664 - An Act Managing Waste and Creating a Waste Authority

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **supports** certain provisions of House Bill 6664 that would create a stewardship program for packaging materials; establish requirements for post-consumer recycled content; expand solid waste materials management services in the state; expand the separation, collection, and processing of food scraps; and promote the development of infrastructure necessary for the management of solid waste materials at upgraded, expanded or proposed facilities. As noted in the Council's most recent annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*¹, the diversion rate for solid waste generated in the state through 2020 (most recent data available) was significantly less than the diversion goal of sixty percent. Furthermore, DEEP's Draft 2023 Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy Amendment notes that there is an in-state capacity deficit for processing the state's solid waste, which is estimated to be 860,000 tons per year.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta,
Executive Director

¹Council on Environmental Quality; <https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/AR-21-Gold/2021-CEQ-Annual-Report-eBook/Personal-Impact---Waste-Diversion>