



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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February 18, 2025

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

Re: Raised Bill No. 6917 - An Act Concerning the Management of Solid Waste in the State

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** the provisions of Raised Bill 6917 that would provide additional funding to DEEP, encourage food donation and the reduction of food waste, and require the submittal of a report on the need for and viability of establishing an extended producer responsibility program for consumer packaging in the state. As detailed in the Council's 2023 annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*<sup>1</sup>, "over 1.5 million tons of the state's solid waste were disposed of at one of the resource recovery facilities (RRF) in the state, while more than 640,000 tons were transported out of state for disposal. With the closure of the Material Innovation and Recycling Authority's RRF in Hartford in July 2022, and limited capacity for additional material at the other in-state RRFs, it is expected that the in-state capacity deficit to manage the state's solid waste will continue in the near term." Consequently, measures to reduce the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of in-state and especially out-of-state should be encouraged.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> <https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/ar-23-gold/2023-ceq-annual-report-ebook/personal-impact---waste-diversion>