



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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March 12, 2026

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. 5524 - An Act Concerning the State's Materials Management System – **Support Concepts**

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

The Council **supports the concepts** of Raised Bill 5524 that would require entities that generate a significant volume of source separated organic materials in the state to ensure that such materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility, and other strategies to reduce solid waste. As detailed in the Council's 2024 annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*,¹ "approximately 1.3 million tons of the state's solid waste were disposed of at one of the resource recovery facilities (RRF) in the state, while approximately 850,000 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 your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

¹ Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, 2024 Environmental Quality in Connecticut, Waste Diversion; <https://portal.ct.gov/ccq/ar-24-gold/2024-ccq-annual-report-ebook/waste-diversion>