

## DRAFT LETTER TO CCM REGARDING SOLID WASTE

December 15, 2021

Mr. Joe DeLong  
Executive Director and CEO  
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities  
45 Long Wharf Drive, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Mr. DeLong,

As **Chair** of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I am writing to urge the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to escalate its advocacy regarding our state's municipal solid waste and recycling crisis. Connecticut's towns and cities are expected to face skyrocketing disposal costs that would be passed onto local taxpayers and these issues require a comprehensive, statewide approach to engaging the state's policymakers to enact measures to address the issue.

As you are aware, landfills serving our region are projected to reach capacity in less than 20 years and disposal opportunities through trash to energy facilities are also disappearing. The announced closing of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) trash to energy operation to take place in July 2022.

CRCOG is actively pursuing initiatives to reduce waste streams, including evaluating food diversion collection, regional composting, and other options. We recognize that even if such options are enacted, additional measures are sorely needed to assist the state's municipalities in avoiding major disposal cost increases. Recommendations, policies, and initiatives promoted via the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) merely represent potential starting points for waste stream reduction.

Without additional and significant state support to address these issues mill rates throughout our state will escalate. Support in this regard could include significantly funding and facilitating the location of anaerobic digester operations, regional composting, unit-based pilot programs as well as increasing in-state disposal capacity to make up for the closing of MIRA. What is clear to our member municipalities is what has been thus far been introduced at the state level falls far short of addressing the impending costs that will directly result from diminishing in and out of state disposal capacity.

Therefore, CRCOG's 38 municipalities, many of whom are also CCM members, urge CCM's direct advocacy with the Lamont Administration and Connecticut General Assembly to enact additional measures to assist municipalities in preventing dramatic increases solid waste disposal costs. Nothing less than statewide engagement on behalf of municipalities with State policy makers will have an impact in this regard. Please inform CRCOG on what efforts CCM will undertake in this regard at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

**First and last name**  
**Title**