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June 20, 2006 FAX (860) 727-4141

Leonard C. Boyle, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Commissioner Boyle:

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority has been monitoring with interest the federal investigation into alleged influence of organized crime in the trash hauling industry, an investigation which led to the indictments of scores of people and companies involved in trash disposal.

Like the Governor and others, we believe that this investigation confirms the need for greater public oversight of this important public service. Under Connecticut's current system, the state cannot definitively know how much trash is being produced, how much of that trash is being recycled, who is hauling trash and what its ultimate destination may be. We believe this system must be fixed.

Trash disposal is essential to protecting public health. Managing trash safely is essential to protecting our environment. This service is too important to be left to an unregulated private market. Public-sector involvement is critical, not only because it ensures environmental responsibility but because it ensures that ratepayers will get the best value for their dollars. That's why we were gratified to hear the Governor call for a state solid waste authority, an entity similar to the Westchester County, N.Y., Solid Waste Commission, which was created under similar circumstances and has by all accounts, produced beneficial results.

Ultimately, we believe that public ownership of disposal facilities – such as CRRA's Mid-Connecticut Project here in Hartford – is the best way to ensure that all the public's interests – both financial and environmental – are truly protected. All disposal facilities – just like all businesses – are run first and foremost for the benefit of their owners. Therefore, to truly benefit the public, trash and recycling facilities should be operated for the public trust. CRRA has successfully demonstrated that trash disposal and recycling can be operated in the public interest, using private-industry contractors, without the creation of public agencies, infrastructure and personnel that increase costs and inhibit flexibility, creativity and innovation. The CRRA model of private industry engaged in the operation of publicly owned and managed waste disposal projects has proven that the protections and assurances of public ownership can be enjoyed while avoiding the undesirable costs and bureaucracy typically associated with public agencies.

While the facts uncovered by the investigation are tragic, the timing of these revelations is opportune. As you may know, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is updating the state Solid Waste Management Plan. Throughout this process, DEP has looked to CRRA to provide its unique perspective in the areas of trash disposal and recycling. Similarly we believe our expertise in solid waste matters, and our understanding of the state and regional solid waste generation, transportation and disposal systems would be an asset to the working group's efforts to establish the Connecticut Solid Waste Authority, and we would welcome an opportunity to assist you in these efforts.

CRRA was created more than 30 years ago to develop an infrastructure for managing the state's solid waste. When our new board and management team were formed starting in mid-2002, our first priority was recovery from the \$290 million loss due to the Enron transaction. Having now acted to defease or retire all but \$16 million of debt impacted by the Enron debacle, we have accomplished that mission. We now stand ready to help you tackle an even bigger job: protecting the public's interest in the transportation facet of trash disposal and recycling.

We look forward to working with you and the other commissioners on this vital task. As always, please call me in Old Saybrook at (860) 395-3123 or call CRRA's President, Tom Kirk, at (860) 757-7700, should you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michael A. Pace
Chairman

C: M. Jodi Rell, Governor, State of Connecticut
Richard Blumenthal, Esq., Attorney General
J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of Public Health
Edwin R. Rodriguez, Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Christopher L. Morano, Chief State's Attorney
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Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chair, Committee on the Environment
Senator Donald DeFronzo, Co-Chair, Committee on Government Administration and
Elections
Representative Christopher Caruso, Co-Chair, Committee on Government Administration
and Elections
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