

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



March 7, 2022

Esteemed Chairs Arconti and Needleman,
Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

The Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 277, *An Act Establishing a Trash-to-Energy Working Group*.

WestCOG **supports** this bill. The bill is consistent with Item 3.3 of the region's 2022 Policy Agenda "avert a trash crisis" which reads:

"Changes in the waste market risk undoing thirty years of progress of in landfill diversion, recycling, and trash-to-energy. Collection and diversion of food scraps and organics, enhanced recycling, new pricing models, and extended producer responsibility together may reduce waste to manageable volumes. The state should coordinate with local governments, COGs, and its neighbors to ensure that a functioning and sustainable waste market continues to exist."

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis Pickering". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Francis R. Pickering
Executive Director