



Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee

43 Enterprise Drive
Bristol, Connecticut 06010
www.brrfoc.org

(860) 585-0419
(860) 225-9811
Fax (860) 585-9875

March 2, 2011

Berlin -
Denise McNair
Town Manager
(Treasurer)

Branford -
Anthony DaRos
First Selectman
(Secretary)

Bristol -
Arthur Ward
Mayor
(President)

Burlington -
Catherine Bergstrom
First Selectman

Hartland -
Wade Cole
First Selectman

New Britain -
Timothy Stewart
Mayor

Plainville -
Robert Lee
Town Manager

Plymouth -
Vincent Festa
Mayor

Prospect -
Robert Chatfield
Mayor

Seymour -
Paul F. Roy
First Selectman

Southington -
Garry Brumback
Town Manager

Warren -
Jack Travers
First Selectman

Washington -
Mark Lyon
First Selectman

Wolcott -
Thomas Dunn
Mayor
(Vice President)

Honorable Ben Barnes
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1379

RE: Eliminating Exemptions from the Sales and Use Tax

Dear Secretary Barnes:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Mayor of the City of Bristol and President of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC), a 14-town consortium that works cooperatively to manage municipal solid waste and improve the environment.

Solid waste costs are a significant expense in our municipal budgets. I am asking you to reconsider the proposed elimination of a sales tax exemption that the BRRFOC has made use of as provided for in Sec. 12-412 (95) of the General Statutes. Repealing this exemption will result in additional costs for our municipalities and simply shift this tax burden from the state to the local level.

Sec. 12-412 (95) exempts from sales and use tax any services or tangible personal property to be incorporated into and used or otherwise consumed in the operation of a solid waste-to-energy facility, certified by DEP, whether such purchases are made directly by an authority or an operating committee, or are reimbursed by an authority or operating committee to the lessee or operator of such facility. Pursuant to our existing contract, repeal of this exemption will mean that Covanta Bristol, the operator of our waste-to-energy facility, will pass through to the citizens of the BRRFOC sales and use tax on all services and tangible personal property used at or otherwise consumed in the operating of the facility. Prior to the adoption of subsection (95) of Sec. 12-412, effective October 1, 1997, area taxpayers were saddled with these costs, usually in excess of \$100,000/year. Additionally, there were intangible expenses incurred monitoring such charges. Repeal of this exemption will directly impact the taxpayers of the Bristol project by increasing our tipping fees and the costs of environmentally sound solid waste disposal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Ward".

Art Ward, Mayor
President
BRRFOC Board