

Questions for Nominee to the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority

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Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) ([CGS §§ 22a-260a](#), [22a-261](#), and [22a-262](#))

- MIRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA).
- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members, and the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint two members.
- Three members must represent towns with a population of 50,000 or fewer and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five members represent the public and must have extensive, high level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.
- Members serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses.

The governor designates one member to serve as chairperson, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairperson serves at the governor's pleasure. The chairperson, with approval of the board, appoints MIRA's president, who supervises MIRA's administrative affairs and technical activities.

Questions

1. This nomination is to reappoint you to MIRA's board. During your time on the board, what have been the most challenging operational issues the authority has encountered? What steps has the board taken to address these issues?
2. What is the status of the negotiations between MIRA and Sacyr Rooney Recovery Team ("Sacyr Rooney") to enter into a final agreement to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project ("project")?
3. The governor's bill on the state's solid waste management system requires MIRA, by the end of 2021, to provide the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Office of Policy and Management with a five-year plan for reliable and cost-effective solid waste management service, aiming to reduce waste and minimize cost (see [SB 11](#), § 4). How would this requirement align with MIRA's current negotiations with Sacyr Rooney to redevelop the project?
4. You serve on MIRA's board as a representative of a municipality with a population of less than 50,000. When selecting a provider of solid waste management services, what factors, other than tipping fees, do municipalities consider? What weight are these factors given compared to cost?
5. What steps does MIRA take to mitigate negative impacts (e.g., emissions, odor, truck traffic, noise) of the trash-to-energy facility on the residents nearby?
6. Based on your experience as a municipal official:
 - a. how familiar are residents and businesses with the state's requirement that certain materials must be recycled (e.g., newspapers and magazines, white and colored ledger paper, glass and metal food containers, and HDPE and PETE (#1 and #2) plastic containers)?
 - b. what are the most effective ways to educate residents about proper solid waste disposal and recycling?
 - c. what are the most common questions and complaints that municipalities receive from residents about solid waste disposal and recycling?
7. The state has Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for managing certain waste, such as paint and mattresses, and eliminating it from the general waste stream. EPR programs generally require producers to take back their products and are funded by a fee charged at purchase.
 - a. Has MIRA experienced a significant reduction in receiving waste that is covered by a state EPR program?

- b. Are there other types of waste that MIRA would like to have managed through an EPR program?
- 8. What has the state's experience been with single-stream recycling? How would changing from single-stream to dual-stream recycling or a pay-as-you-throw system impact such things as solid waste and recycling volume, recycling contamination, and municipal solid waste management costs?

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