

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-521 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND TO THE NORTHWEST
Title: RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY.

Vote Date: 4/6/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 4/1/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen Honig, Sen Harding, Rep Horn

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill conveys a roughly 4-acre parcel of land in Torrington, including the existing transfer station, to the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority at administrative cost. The property must be used to operate a public transfer station for municipal solid waste and recycling, and ownership must be retained without leasing, or it reverts to the state. The conveyance is subject to State Properties Review Board approval and standard administrative procedures, with the Department of Administrative Services overseeing the process.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Rep. Maria Horn, Sen. Paul Honig, Sen. Stephen Harding, Rep. Joe Canino, Rep. Mark Anderson, Connecticut General Assembly](#): submitted testimony in support, emphasizing that conveying the Torrington Transfer Station to the NRRA would preserve a long-standing public asset, maintain stable and competitive pricing, and strengthen regional collaboration in solid waste management following MIRA's dissolution.

[David R. Barger, First Selectman, Town of Canaan](#): Expressed support for efforts to keep the Torrington Transfer Station operating as a public option. He noted the town's intent to join

the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority (NRRA) and requested reconsideration of the planned contract termination, arguing that continued operation would support regional waste management and allow time to develop a long-term municipal solution.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns: Testified in support, stating that the bill would help municipalities manage solid waste more affordably and sustainably following the closure of MIRA and limited in-state capacity. She emphasized that the proposal would reduce reliance on costly out-of-state disposal and provide a long-term, municipally controlled alternative to private waste companies.

Matthew W. Hart, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments: Testified in support, stating that the bill would help address Connecticut's ongoing solid waste disposal challenges by preserving a publicly owned transfer station. He emphasized that maintaining municipal control would reduce reliance on costly out-of-state disposal, support competitive pricing, and ensure long-term, sustainable waste management capacity across the state.

Denise Raap, First Selectman, Town of Litchfield: Testified in support, stating that the bill would preserve a critical public transfer station that helps municipalities maintain competition, control costs, and ensure sustainable waste management.

Denise Raap, First Selectman, Town of Litchfield: Testified in support, stating that the bill would preserve a critical public transfer station that helps municipalities maintain competition, control costs, and ensure sustainable waste management. She emphasized that maintaining a public option provides leverage against private providers and supports long-term regional planning.

Thomas J. Roy, Chair, Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority: Testified in support, stating that the bill would preserve a publicly controlled transfer station that is critical to managing Connecticut's growing solid waste challenges.

Henry D. Tirrell, First Selectman, Town of Norfolk: Testified in support, stating that the bill would help small towns manage waste more effectively by providing a public, regional solution through the NRRA. He emphasized that the transfer would improve competition, reduce reliance on private contracts, and support long-term stability, sustainability, and local control for municipalities with limited resources.

Armand Maniccia, Torrington City Council Member: Testified in support, stating that municipal control of transfer stations is important to keep costs affordable, ensure public oversight, and allow for competitive private operation through bidding while maintaining public ownership.

Robert A. Phillips, Executive Director, Northwest Hills Council of Governments: Testified in support, emphasizing that conveying the Torrington Transfer Station to the NRRA would preserve a critical public asset, maintain competition, stabilize costs, and ensure local control through a regionally accountable authority.

Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall: Testified in support, stating that conveying the Torrington Transfer Station to the NRRA is essential to maintain affordable costs, local control, and regional cooperation, while providing small towns with a reliable and sustainable waste management solution.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Edward Spinella, Industry Representative: Testified in opposition, arguing that the bill would require ongoing taxpayer subsidies, while private companies could operate more efficiently at lower cost. He urged the Committee to require NRRA to disclose projected tip fees, stating that if they are not competitive, the conveyance should not proceed.

Paul Amarone, Senior Policy Director, Connecticut Business and Industry Association: Testified in opposition, stating that the bill would transfer state land below market value and restrict its use, limiting future economic development opportunities. He argued that the proposal lacks flexibility, creates an imbalance between public and private access to land, and does not provide economic return to the state, potentially discouraging investment and long-term growth.

Jonathan Murray, Vice President of Post-Collection Operations, USA Waste & Recycling: Opposed this bill and provided testimony highlighting the company's ability to operate transfer stations efficiently and offer lower tipping fees, while generating revenue and providing cost savings for municipalities.

Todd Arcelaschi, Mayor, Town of Winchester and Administrator: Testified in opposition, stating that the bill would create significant financial burdens as the Torrington Transfer Station is not economically sustainable without ongoing public subsidy. He cited operating losses, limited revenue streams, and rising costs, arguing that private operators could provide services more efficiently and that the proposal would place additional strain on taxpayers.

**Reported by: Clerk-Greg Wolff
Assistant Clerk-Mike Hamann**

Date: 4/8/26