



**Testimony of the Integrated Waste Services Association
before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
Thursday, February 15, 2007**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Cheryl Thibeault and I work for Covanta Energy. I am the business manager of the Bristol Resource Recovery facility. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning to support HB 6602. I am here today representing the Integrated Waste Services Association (“IWSA”) in support the concept of increased waste-to-energy capacity in HB 6602.

IWSA represents the 89 waste-to-energy plants nationwide, including the six located in Connecticut. These 89 facilities dispose of more than 90,000 tons of trash each day while generating enough clean energy to supply electricity to about 2.3 million homes nationwide.

In addition to providing essential trash disposal services to cities and towns across Connecticut, today’s waste-to-energy plants generate clean, renewable energy. Through the combustion of everyday household trash in our facilities with state-of-the-art environmental controls, IWSA’s members provide a valuable public service to communities in the state and generate enough energy to power more than 240,000 homes.

And, these facilities perform these services while meeting some of the most stringent environmental standards in the world. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that waste-to-energy facilities generate electricity with “less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity.” EPA goes on to state that “communities greatly benefit from the dependable, sustainable capacity of municipal waste-to-energy plants.” And, just last fall, the EPA took the major step of revising their solid waste disposal hierarchy to place waste-to-energy above landfilling.

In Connecticut, Covanta Energy operates four waste-to-energy facilities: Bristol, Hartford, Wallingford and Preston, and Wheelabrator Technologies operates two plants: Bridgeport and Lisbon. These plants process a total of approximately 6,450 tons of municipal solid waste per day, and have a generating capacity of 194 MW of clean, renewable energy that avoids the use of more than 2 million barrels of oil each year.

As owners and operators of resource recovery facilities nationwide, IWSA members have built strong relationships with the communities we serve. Our ability to provide stable, long-term disposal rates is proven over and over again around the country.

IWSA members are undertaking expansions of existing facilities in Florida and are responding to Requests for Proposals for new waste-to-energy facilities from

municipalities in several other states. These communities recognize the environmental benefits of the technology as well as the economic stability these plants provide. Connecticut currently cannot manage all of its own solid waste in the state. Almost 350,000 tons per year of municipal solid waste is exported to other states for disposal. The recently issued State Solid Waste Management Plan projects that, at current recycling rates, in less than two decades, Connecticut will export 1.5 million tons of trash per year. Even if the state can increase the recycling rate to 50% diversion, almost 500,000 tons of trash per year will still need to be exported for disposal.

HB 6602 offers Connecticut the opportunity to save limited in-state landfill capacity, generate more clean, renewable energy, and provide long-term solid waste disposal for its citizens.

We welcome your questions or requests for additional information.