

ATTACHMENT 7

Includes:

7a. Letter from Town of Essex (added 4/3/2025)

7b. Letter from Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board (DMIAAB)(added 4/7/2025)



Selectmen's Office

www.essexct.gov

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman

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Board of Selectmen

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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Bert Hunter
Chairman, MIRA Dissolution Authority (MDA)
300 Maxim Road
Hartford, CT 06614

Via Electronic Mail, to: Bert.Hunter@ctgreenbank.com (multiple cc's)

RE: OPERATIONS AT THE ESSEX TRANSFER STATION

Dear Chairman Hunter,

I am writing today in my capacity as First Selectman of the Town of Essex, and as the representative of the 11 municipalities who utilize our transfer station pursuant to a lease agreement between my town and the MIRA Dissolution Authority ("MDA") f.k.a. Connecticut Resources Recover Authority ("CRRRA"), under various municipal service agreements between those towns (the "Essex towns" of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook) and the MDA.

On February 19, 2025, the MDA Board of Directors adopted the following resolution, which states in pertinent part:

Further Resolved: Notwithstanding the establishment of the tip fees, the authority may consider requests from member towns to voluntarily propose any and all other alternative arrangements, provided such terms are agreeable to both the authority and the DEEP Commissioner.

In speaking with you and various board members, and reviewing correspondence from the MDA President, it is my understanding that should participating municipalities express a desire to "opt out," then the MDA prefers such proposed alternative arrangements referred to in the above resolution be as comprehensive as possible.

In that spirit, please consider this communication a submission to represent the essence of a comprehensive strategy that will transition all remaining Essex towns, consistent with the MDA's statutory mandate to wind down and dissolve in an orderly fashion. In furtherance of the statutory directives, it will do so in a manner which addresses the need for reliable and cost-effective management of waste and recycling and saves costs to both the MDA and the state. Additionally, it adheres to the oft stated wishes of the Commissioner of DAS and is consistent with the directives set out in a letter to the MDA Board from the Commissioners of DEEP and DAS, as well as the Secretary of OPM.



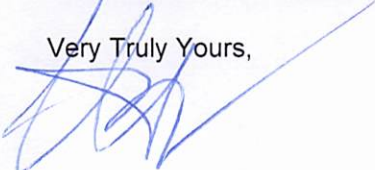
The outline of the strategy is as follows:

- The Town of Essex will take over the permit to operate the transfer station, effective July 1, 2025
- CWPM, the present operator, will continue seamless and uninterrupted operation of the transfer station.
- The members towns will continue to utilize the facility. For reasons of both economic and positive environmental impact, the towns of Lyme, Durham, and Middlefield, while unified with the other member towns in their desire to opt out, may choose to pursue slight variations on their disposal schemes, but this would not impact the overall agreement.
- To accomplish the statutory objectives, the Essex towns respectfully request the establishment of a "sinking fund" of not more than one and one half (\$1.5) million dollars be established for the following purposes:
 - o up to 20% for site improvements, property line adjustments, contract negotiations, permit transfer costs, lost compensation due to rent and other incidentals.
 - o The remainder would be held for the purpose of equalizing the cost of the recyclables which are presently collected and processed at no charge. This portion would be utilized as a draw down reimbursement to the various towns based on billings from the hauler.
- As discussions regarding exact financial accommodations are ongoing between the MDA Chairman and Selectman Needleman as of the writing of this letter, final specifics as to the processes and procedures involving this proposal have been held in abeyance until such negotiations are complete. In the interest of time, it was important to forward this proposal but suffice it to say it will not change going forward in any material manner.

To sum up, this proposal and its underlying strategy will serve to provide the DEEP, the MDA, and the member towns with a comprehensive, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solution, which is consistent with both the dissolution statute's and the state's objectives. Further, it satisfies the guideline suggested by MDA in its report of January 18, 2024 to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Members of the General Assembly's joint committees on Environment, and Planning and Development, where it stated, "*the Authority will endeavor a transition that results in no material disruption of MSW disposal and recycling services for the towns being served presently by the Authority and conserves as much of the Authority's reserves as possible.*" We are glad to assist the MDA in meeting that commitment.

On behalf of the Essex towns, I respectfully request that this proposal be placed on the April agenda of the MDA Finance Committee for an open and public discussion and look forward to a positive recommendation to the full Board of Directors.

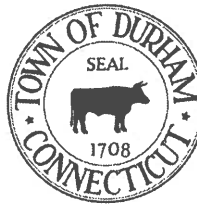
Very Truly Yours,



Norman M. Needleman



TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN OF DURHAM, CONNECTICUT



Offices of the First Selectmen

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Bert Hunter
Chairman, MIRA Dissolution Authority (MDA)
300 Maxim Road
Hartford, CT 06614

Via Electronic Mail, to: Bert.Hunter@ctgreenbank.com (multiple cc's)

RE: OPERATIONS AT THE ESSEX TRANSFER STATION

Dear Chairman Hunter:

We are writing as First Selectmen of both the Towns of Middlefield and Durham and as the Chairman of D.M.I.A.A.B. As you are aware from Norm Needleman's letter dated March 31, 2025, the 11 municipalities using the Essex transfer station have requested to be put on the MDA Finance Committee agenda for a comprehensive strategy involving the transition of the Essex towns and opting out. We are in complete agreement with Norm's letter and seek to opt out.

For reasons both economic and for positive environmental impact, the Towns of Middlefield and Durham, through our transfer station operation (D.M.I.A.A.B.), seek to implement a variation whereby our Towns will bring our MSW solid waste and recyclables directly to the Reworld - Bristol facility and to Murphy Road Recycling- Berlin, respectively. This eliminates the dual handling of our waste stream and significantly reduces the total transportation mileage versus going to Essex Transfer Station.

Given the direct transfer of our recyclable waste from DMIAAB to Murphy Road Recycling. We ask that we participate in the sinking fund for the recyclable disposal costs as provided to the other member communities.

This proposal will serve to provide the DEEP, the MDA, and the undersigned towns with a comprehensive, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solution, which is consistent with both the dissolution statutes and the state's objectives. Further, it satisfies the guideline suggested by MDA in its report of January 18, 2024 to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Members of the General Assembly's joint committees on Environment, and Planning and Development, where it stated, "the Authority will endeavor

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a transition that results in no material disruption of MSW disposal and recycling services for the towns being served presently by the Authority and conserves as much of the Authority's reserves as possible." We are glad to assist the MDA in meeting that commitment.

We request that our item be added to the April agenda of the MDA Finance Committee for an open, public discussion and a favorable recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

By: 
Robert C. Yamartino
First Selectman

TOWN OF DURHAM

By: 
Brendan Rea
First Selectman

D.M.I.A.A.B.

By: 
Dom DeVecchio
Chairman
Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board