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Education Committee

March 9, 2009

Testimony of Martin Mador

In Support of

**SB 1011** An Act Concerning Recycling Programs in Schools

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

SB 1011 calls for establishment of recycling programs in schools. Over the past few years, we have put an emphasis on recycling in many ways. We are strengthening municipal recycling programs. This year we expanded container deposits to include water bottles, which will reduce roadside litter. We are looking at single stream pilot projects. We would like DEP to enlarge its educational mission, which is stalled for lack of funding.

Recycling has numerous benefits to society. It reduces landfill requirements. It reduces roadside and trailside litter. It provides feedstock for manufacture of numerous projects. It reduces our energy consumption, as recycling almost always demands less energy than manufacture from virgin raw materials. It reduces our need to clear cut forests and strip mine metals.

Schools are an obvious place to promote recycling for three reasons. One, they are generators of ferocious amounts of both paper and beverage containers. Two, garbage collection costs money, both for the labor costs and the tipping fees. Three, schools are educational venues. The recycling programs can serve as educational opportunities for the students. We teach by setting a good example, and by having the students participate.

Sierra strongly supports SB 1011.