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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010

Testimony In Favor of

HB 5122 AA Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program  
HB 5126 AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut  
HB 5130 AAC Child Safe Products  
HB 5240 AAC Affordable Housing Developments in Environmentally Regulated Areas  
HB 5120 AAC Private and Municipal Recycling, Zoning Ordinances and  
Solid Waste Collection Contracts

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

**5122**

This bill has been proposed by the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council, of which Sierra is an affiliate member. It is an appropriate bill which provides for collection and recycling of unused paint. Over 740,000 gallons of paint are unused each year, costing towns in excess of half a million dollars in disposal fees. Details of the bill have been negotiated with industry, which is in support, provided the amendments to be offered by the American Coatings Association are adopted. Recycling of the paint will remove it from the municipal solid waste stream, saving the towns money. This bill will help to further the goals of the state's Solid Waste Management Plan. It is consonant with the evolving principle of manufacturer take back and recycling of post-consumer end of life material. Sierra strongly recommends passage, with the ACA amendments.

**5126**

5126 establishes an Institute at UCONN focused on disseminating information on safer chemicals. This bill is endorsed by member organizations of the Coalition for a Safer Connecticut, of which Sierra is a guiding member. The Institute would work with resources across the country, such as the Interstate Clearinghouse, to accumulate knowledge about non-toxic chemicals. This information would be shared with Connecticut industry. Benefits to state companies include: better competitiveness in the global marketplace; preservation of jobs; improved worker health; reduced worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs and hazardous waste disposal fees; and access to state-of-the-art chemical information. Many markets are becoming closed to products containing toxic chemicals, as the REACH program in Europe provides. Access to this knowledge is vital for state industry to remain competitive and preserve jobs.

The bill establishes the Institute and defines its Board of Directors. It does NOT call for state funding, as this should come from corporate beneficiaries and fee for service arrangements.

The bill is a component of the Green Jobs proposal "Building Connecticut's Economic and Environmental Future" advanced by a coalition of virtually all major environmental organizations in the state.

**5130**

HB 5130 is one in a series of bills over the past few years aimed at removing toxics from our lives. Sierra believes that the intentional introduction of toxics into our world is an important environmental issue. This bill establishes a procedure for state agencies to identify and prohibit toxic chemicals in children's products. It provides that information readily available from other states be used, thus eliminating the need for Connecticut to conduct its own duplicative research.

Sierra strongly recommends passage of both 5126 and 5130.

**5120**

This is essentially the recycling bill which passed the House last session 141-4, but was not called in the Senate. The bill adds to reporting requirements; adds PETE and HDPE plastics, boxboard, and types of paper as designated material to be recycled; requires separation of recyclables from other solid waste; and provides for municipal collection of recyclables. The bill has similar provisions to the DEP recycling bill, SB 127. Sierra recommends passage.