

Testimony of the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority
Re: HB 5120, AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL RECYCLING,
ZONING ORDINANCES AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACTS
and
HB 5122, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAINT STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROGRAM
Before the Environment Committee
March 1, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding two bills, House Bill 5120, AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL RECYCLING, ZONING ORDINANCES AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACTS and HB 5122 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAINT STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority supports many of the concepts outlined in HB 5120. Regarding the proposed changes to the municipal reporting requirements as outlined in Section 2 (h), CRRA supports this language which should ensure the proper reporting of solid waste and recycling deliveries. CRRA also recognizes the concern some towns have with regard to such reporting and would recommend leaving current statutes alone if the language in Section 2 (h) does not move forward.

Regarding Section 3 (a) (2) which adds the recycling of plastics one and two, boxboard, magazines and other types of paper, CRRA already accepts those materials at its two regional recycling facilities in Hartford and Stratford. CRRA is also sensitive to the fact, however, that while most towns already collect and deliver such recyclables, towns which do not currently collect them might be opposed to mandating these additional materials to be recycled.

In terms of allowing towns to collect and deliver recyclables from businesses to CRRA's recycling centers, we would support the concept to encourage more recycling, including commercial recycling. However, CRRA does not want to interfere with the private sector recycling efforts if such recycling is already taking place.

We support the recycling of all plastics and other potentially recyclable items as long as there are the necessary markets willing to purchase the recycled materials to make into other products. Without viable markets to purchase and recycle other materials into new products, however, these materials would have no place to be recycled.

Concerning HB 5122, CRRA supports the concept of a paint stewardship program. This would be another method for increasing opportunities for end of life recycling, providing much-needed savings for municipalities, and provide for the safe disposal of paints and stains. Currently paint comprises at least 30% of all municipal Household Hazardous Waste collection costs. Paint manufacturers would financially support the program and be responsible for its implementation with no fiscal impact to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to present CRRA's comments on these two pieces of legislation.