

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
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Committee On Environment Public Hearing
March 1, 2010
Testimony Regarding House Bill 5122
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAINT STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROGRAM
Margaret J. Hall

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of HB 5122. My name is Peg Hall and I am the Solid Waste Manager for the Town of Branford. I came to Branford as its first Recycling Coordinator in February 1988. I became Solid Waste Manager in 1992 and currently administer all aspects of garbage, recycling, and household hazardous waste for the Town. I am one of the founding members of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC), a founding member of HazWaste Central, and a charter member of the new Connecticut Product Stewardship Council, all of whom have an interest in passing Product Stewardship legislation in general, and Paint Stewardship legislation in particular.

HB 5122 is a Producer Responsibility bill – a bill whose concept is supported by and initiated by the paint manufacturers so that they may pay for the recycling or disposal of leftover (post-consumer) “architectural” paint and stain products (not certain specialty machine or marine paints). Leftover oil-based paint that was brought to HazWaste Central for the New Haven region cost the region’s taxpayers \$108,000 in 2008. Leftover oil-based paint brought to all of the state’s household hazardous waste collections by residents cost taxpayers \$620,000 in 2008. Since this bill will cover

- These same “architectural” oil-based paints & stains that are collected from residents at existing facilities; and
 - Any additional oil-based paints and stains that can be collected from residents; and
 - Oil-based architectural paints collected from businesses, including painters; and
 - All of the post-consumer latex paints that can be collected;
- the potential cost-savings are staggering. At the same time, the industry estimates that it can handle these materials for less than a quarter of the cost per can that it currently costs to process the oil-based paints through the regional household hazardous waste programs.

There are some changes I am requesting in the bill language.

- Delete the specific reference to \$.35/can and substitute language that the costs charged must be shown by audit to be enough to cover, but not more than cover the costs of the program;
- Insert language to insure that the new program cooperates with existing infrastructure and any additional permitted paint and stain collection locations;
- Make the program permanent, not a pilot. The enabling language of this legislation should be flexible enough to grow with the program;

- And lastly there is what I believe to be a typo in Section 2 (c) where it says “Such materials shall include, but be limited to, information ...” to read “Such materials shall include, but NOT be limited to, information ...”

As the concept of Producer Responsibility sweeps the European Union and makes strong headway in the US, I strongly encourage the adoption of this kind of legislation, including HB 5122. The Vision Statement of the CT State Solid Waste Management Plan cannot be achieved by continuing business-as-usual, and expecting government to continue to handle and pay for ever-increasing amounts of waste. All stakeholders must play a part to reduce waste and toxicity, and promote recycling.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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