



TOWN OF HAMDEN

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**Environment Committee Hearing
Monday, March 1, 2010**

**Testimony in support of HB 5122
An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program**

**Testimony on behalf of the Town of Hamden
Submitted by Pamela Roach, Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator,
member of the CT Product Stewardship Council and
Board member of the CT Recyclers Coalition.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of HB 5122, An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program with the changes outlined in this testimony.

The proposed Paint Stewardship Program provides for a more convenient and accessible means for collection and recycling of both oil based and latex paints. It is estimated that the industry, for less than 25% of the current cost per can, can handle both current and additional materials through this program. Given these facts, this bill will save taxpayers money and increase paint recycling.

The Town of Hamden is a member of the Regional Water Authority's HazWaste Central Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (HWC). Oil based paint disposal accounts for 52% of HWC's waste disposal expenses. Currently, The Town of Hamden spends ~\$37,000 per year as a member of HWC. This bill would reduce Hamden's HWC expenses by ~\$10,000 per year.

There are currently no sites in Connecticut that collect latex paint for recycling. Residents are forced to dry out their latex paint and dispose of it in their regular garbage. It is estimated that there is twice the amount of unused latex paint that is being disposed of in the regular garbage versus the amount of oil-based paint needing proper disposal. Given the fact that at this time all of the unused latex paint is being put into the regular garbage and only about 18% of the unused oil based paint is being properly disposed of at this time, we would expect Hamden's Municipal Solid Waste Disposal costs to noticeably decrease.

The Town of Hamden supports the following changes in language to this bill:

1. The program is created as a permanent program, not a pilot;
2. The program should be designed to work within the current infrastructure as well as develop new outlets for disposing and recycling paint products.
3. Eliminate the specific stewardship assessment fee in the legislation and allow an independent annual audit to verify the stewardship fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. We hope to have your support for this proposal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Roach
Hamden Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator
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