



**Committee on Environment  
Public Hearing, March 1, 2010  
House Bill 5122**

*An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program*

Testimony on behalf of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional  
Resource Recovery Authority

Winston Averill  
Regional Recycling Coordinator

My name is Winston Averill, and I am the Regional Recycling Coordinator for the Southeastern Ct. Regional Resource Recovery Authority, (SCRRA), the waste and recycling Authority for 12 communities in Connecticut's Southeast corner. I am here to testify in support of HB 5122.

One of my responsibilities at SCRRA is oversight of the region's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection efforts. We hold 8 or 9 collections each calendar year with participation of more than 2300 households and at a cost of more than \$153,000. Connecticut's landscape reflects an array of successful HHW events – several permanent facilities and one-day regional programs. Similar to us, these programs are very popular – and very expensive. House Bill 5122 has the capability to effect significant saving to our region and member towns in several ways:

- The paints and stains addressed by HB 5122 comprise 30 – 50 % of our region's incoming material in any given year. That does not include latex paint. The potential saving with HB 5122 are \$45K – \$70K . Against the backdrop of increasingly tight city and town budgets these are significant savings.
- These saving can be used to both continue and expand HHW services in our region.

- Latex Paint, the material that now dominates the industry, is generally not targeted by Connecticut's HHW infrastructure. Instead, our residents are told to "dry latex out and dispose of it with their trash". Many households do not properly manage this material. As a result the handling of latex paint is shifted to the waste stream, with its transportation and disposal expenses. This makes for a very messy disposal issue at the point of curbside refuse collection, adds to our garbage volume, and drives up costs for Connecticut's cities and towns.
- The Product Stewardship structure of HB 5122 mirrors the concept behind Connecticut's Electronic Recycling legislation, and is consistent with our Solid Waste Management Plan.
- HB 5122 has a broad level of support, including the paint industry, non-profits, regional authorities and Connecticut's cities and towns.

We would urge that HB 5122 be a permanent rather than a pilot program, and that a specific stewardship fee not be set in the legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 5122.

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