



A Joint Project of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority & the South Central Regional Council of Governments

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

Testimony of behalf of HazWaste Central  
The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority  
and  
The Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee

Submitted by Lori Vitagliano, HazWaste Central Coordinator

**In Support of HB 5122 – An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program**

Thank you Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer and members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of HB 5122 on behalf of HazWaste Central, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee.

HazWaste Central is a regional permanent household hazardous waste collection program representing sixteen municipalities: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Fairfield, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge. HazWaste Central was created in 1989 as the first permanent household hazardous waste facility in the state resulting from a partnership between the South Central Connecticut Regional Council of Governments and the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority to protect the region's environment and public water supplies.

Passage of HB 5122 would significantly reduce the waste disposal expense for the municipalities served by HazWaste Central. In the 2009 fiscal year, the oil based paint disposal expense accounted for 52% of the program's waste disposal expense, \$120,000.

The proposed Paint Stewardship Program would provide convenient means for consumers to properly dispose of oil based paint. The opportunities for consumers' disposal of paint would increase as this program expands to include retailers' sites, on a voluntary basis, as additional collection locations. The program would also increase the type of paint recycled to include latex paint. Currently, there are no opportunities for consumers to recycle latex paint; they are directed to dry latex paint and dispose of it in their regular garbage.

This paint management legislation is consistent with the State of Connecticut's Solid Waste Management Plan of 2006. According to the plan, "Solid waste management efforts in Connecticut will be guided by the principle of shared responsibility or product stewardship".

The Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee has distributed a fact sheet to you describing the initiative in more detail. This initiative is supported by The American Coatings Association, representing paint manufacturers.

Further, we support the following substitute language as submitted by The American Coatings Association, specifically:

1. The creation of a permanent paint stewardship program rather than a pilot program is preferred.
2. The paint manufacturers' program would be required to annually submit independently audited financial statements showing that the assessment is set at a level that covers only the cost of the program and does not produce a profit. As costs may change, we do not support setting a specific stewardship assessment fee in the legislation.
3. We support language that requires the plan to "address the coordination of the architectural paint stewardship program with existing household hazardous waste collection infrastructure as much as is reasonably feasible and mutually agreeable."

HazWaste Central, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee encourage members of the Committee to pass HB 5122 with the recommended changes to help Connecticut's residents make the right disposal choices for their waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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