

Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

March 7th, 2011

Testimony in Support of SB 205 AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN THERMOSTAT MANUFACTURERS TO PAY INCENTIVES FOR THE RETURN OF MERCURY THERMOSTATS

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Thank you Representative Roy, Senator Meyer and members of the Environment Committee for this opportunity to speak. My name is Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, with Environment Concerns Coalition, Milford & Coalition For A Safe & Healthy Connecticut.

I support SB205 AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN THERMOSTAT MANUFACTURERS TO PAY INCENTIVES FOR THE RETURN OF MERCURY THERMOSTATS.

MONEY, has always been an incentive to move something and in this case to RE-MOVE SOMETHING...OUR MERCURY THERMOSTATS! Today, the chemical mercury is associated with ills that decades ago we were not aware of.

Mercury findings are that this chemical is indeed poisonous at low levels especially to children and fetuses.

We've been alerted to poisonous mercury in amalgam fillings, our food, like fish and tuna. Yes a single gram of mercury can contaminate the fish in a 20 acre lake. Now we have been alerted to our home mercury thermostats.

Many of us reached several times this past Winter to move that mercury thermostat up a notch, if we are still in the percentile of CT homes that uses a mercury thermostat. I found that I was not alone in needing to upgrade to digital. 1.7 MILLION CT HOMES such as mine with 3 to 5 grams of mercury, or about 11,500 pounds of toxic mercury are waiting to be recycled. We need this incentive program to find a safe place for toxic mercury thermostats. We have wonderful digital alternatives available in our consumer market.

We and the manufacturers need to take responsibility and help us cleanup an easy and healthy exchange, and return such toxic thermostats to proper recycling areas.

THE HEAT IS ON TO MANUFACTURERS AND CONNECTICUT'S 1.7 MILLION HOMES TO UPGRADE THESE TOXIC PRODUCTS FOR HEALTHIER CHILDREN AND ENVIRONMENTS, LIKE OUR NEIGHBORS IN MAINE AND VERMONT.

Thank you for all that you do.

Joyce Acebo~Raguskus