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*Testimony by Representative Laura Hoydick
Before the Environment Committee
On Senate Bill 249
February 23, 2011*

Good Chairman Meyer and Roy, Ranking Members Chapin and Roraback, and members of the Environment Committee. For the record I am Representative Laura Hoydick representing the 120th District. I offer testimony today in support of SB 249, An Act Concerning the Remediation of the Raymark Superfund Site in Stratford.

Raymark Industries, Inc. (Raymark) was a manufacturer of automotive brakes, clutch parts, and other friction components, which operated its business on a 34-acre parcel at 75 East Main Street in Stratford, Connecticut. Raymark operated at this location from 1919 until 1989 when operations ceased. Raymark's manufacturing waste was historically disposed of as fill on the facility, but over time this waste material was also disposed of within Stratford at a minimum of 46 residential properties, and at numerous other commercial, recreational and municipal properties. In addition, several wetland areas in close proximity to the Housatonic River were also filled in with Raymark's manufacturing waste. The contaminants in Raymark's waste primarily consisted of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, lead, and copper; however, extensive VOC soil contamination also exists at the former Raymark facility. Extensive testing of soil, groundwater, soil gas, indoor air, and sediments throughout the Stratford community has been conducted by the EPA and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP).

The 34-acre former manufacturing facility at 75 East Main Street has been demolished, capped, and redeveloped into what is now known as the Stratford Crossing Shopping Center - which includes Home Depot, Shoprite, and Walmart.

Believe it or not, this is the good news.

The bad news is the EPA is managing approximately a \$22 million superfund to expedite the remediation for the remaining eight (8) Operable Units but \$22 million is not nearly enough to remove the waste from the 46 residential properties and the commercial, recreational and municipal parcels. Though Stratford is working with the EPA, DEP and community action groups such as SaveStratford all parties agree the remaining dollars in the super fund need to be increased in order to remove the toxic waste.

This bill prioritizes the research for viable funding sources which will provide the means to facilitate the removal of the Raymark waste from Stratford. I encourage you to support Senate Bill 249. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Laura Hoydick