



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – February 9, 2011
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella
Department of Environmental Protection

**Raised Senate Bill No. 828 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAINT STEWARDSHIP
PILOT PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 828 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PAINT STEWARDSHIP PILOT PROGRAM. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) supports this bill as an effective way to increase the recovery of unwanted paint while lowering municipal expenses.

This bill would create a product stewardship program for the management of unwanted oil-based and latex paint in Connecticut. Under this bill, the paint industry would take responsibility for managing their product by establishing a paint stewardship organization which will administer a collection and recycling program. The program would be financed by establishing a small fee on the sale of a container of paint.

The Department recognizes product stewardship programs as an important strategy for managing our state's solid waste going forward. The state's solid waste management plan identifies product stewardship solutions to help meet our recycling goals. Product stewardship programs acknowledge that consumers, government and manufacturers all play an important role in managing products at the end of their useful life. This helps relieve the financial burden that currently falls upon municipal government which is tasked with managing solid waste and recycling. The Department is currently implementing the much anticipated electronics recycling program, which is another successful example of product stewardship that increases recycling and lowers municipal expenses.

Connecticut municipalities spent over \$600,000 in 2008 managing leftover oil-based paint, primarily through household hazardous waste collections. Paint represents typically thirty to fifty percent of disposal costs associated with household hazardous waste programs. A producer responsibility approach, as put forth by this proposal, will save the towns money and create more opportunities for residents to safely dispose of unwanted paint.

Effective product stewardship programs limit the role of government. This bill as proposed does not ask the Department to manage the funds collected on the sale of paint and we strongly support this concept. The Department is not in a position to be able to expand our obligations without additional resources. We ask the legislature to be mindful that this bill not impose additional unfunded responsibilities on the department. Last session the Department participated

in discussions with legislative sponsors and other stakeholders including the American Coatings Association and we believe the current language describes the agreed upon roles and responsibilities of the department and others under this proposed bill.

In summary, the Department supports Raised Senate Bill No. 828 as an effective way to increase the recovery of unwanted paint while lowering municipal expenses. The department will continue to work with municipalities and industry to plan the implementation of this program to ensure that it is run efficiently and with a streamlined government role.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the DEP's views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov.