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TESTIMONY RE: SENATE BILL S.B. 59
AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OR USE OF FISHING SINKERS, JIGS, AND TIRE WEIGHTS THAT CONTAIN LEAD

Committee on Environment
January 31, 2011

TO: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee
FROM: Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD; Coordinator, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. I am Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD, coordinator for the Coalition. The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut strongly supports S.B. 59.

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is comprised of over fifty member organizations including medical and nursing groups, public health professionals, faith-based groups, environmental justice groups, labor organizations, environmental professionals and advocates, parents and individual concerned citizens across the state. We are increasingly concerned with the growing body of scientific evidence linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in many serious diseases. The President's Cancer Panel Report, published in May 2010, confirmed that exposure to toxic chemicals is a serious risk factor for cancer and has been grossly underestimated. We are also concerned about the alarming rise in health care costs attributed to these diseases. The National Institutes of Health analysis recently released a report indicating that if the

current trajectory in incidence of cancer continues, the direct costs of cancer care in the U.S. will be $158 billion.[1]

Lead is a chemical that is known or reasonably believed to be a human carcinogen. While we have made strides in Connecticut to remove lead from our environment and children's products, any additional measure to remove lead from products, particularly when alternatives exist, makes sense for protecting health. Exposure to lead poses serious risks, especially in children, for lowered intelligence, behavioral problems, delayed puberty, cancers, anemia, high blood pressure and strokes. Lead from tire weights falls onto roadways, is crushed and disintegrated into dust which is subsequently found in the fine particulates in the air that we breathe. Lead dust also washes into streams and rivers, contaminating water.

S.B. 59 is one more positive step to reducing the risk of harm from exposure to a known human carcinogen. The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut urges your support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of S.B. 59.

[1] See http://costprojections.cancer.gov