

**Written Testimony of Mark Case of Hartford, CT,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment
Committee,
March 7, 2011.**

**Testimony in Support of:
Senate Bill 205, AN ACT REQUIRING
THERMOSTAT MANUFACTURERS TO PAY
INCENTIVES FOR THE RETURN OF MERCURY
THERMOSTATS**

**Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable
members of the Environment Committee,**

**My name is Mark Case and I am a member of The
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, a
group that protects the health of urban communities
and provides tremendous environmental education to
its members**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

**I am in writing because I strongly support SB 205, AN
ACT REQUIRING THERMOSTAT
MANUFACTURERS TO PAY INCENTIVES FOR
THE RETURN OF MERCURY THERMOSTATS.**

Good afternoon.

I believe that most people want to be helpful, to do the

right thing, and to help our environment. Most folks are however, quite busy trying to survive. They have to give much of their attention to money matters. It is for this reason that I believe that a cash incentive will help to boost proper disposal and recycling of mercury from used thermostats.

I am an avid, lifelong fisherman, outdoorsman, and gardener. My family has often relied upon what we can catch or grow for our food supply. I know the dangers and bad health effects that mercury can pose, so I urge you to protect current and future generations by implementing measures, such as are proposed by SB 205, to ensure that our air and water are not further contaminated with mercury. I am especially concerned that mercury can be transmitted to unborn babies while still in their mothers bodies when they are most vulnerable.

A cash incentive to redeem these mercury thermostats is likely to be most successful if it makes it easy for people to do the right thing, by making access to proper disposal routes easily available. I also believe that education is needed to boost public awareness of this issue. Informing them about where and how to redeem used thermostats would also be helpful and would make it more likely that people will do so.

Household Hazardous Waste disposal dates are offered so infrequently that most people will dispose of items in their regular trash rather than save them up for special

disposal. Making the manufacturers take responsibility for their products proper disposal is likely to work better.

Please support this bill and help us to do the right thing for the environment when we make improvements to our homes.

Thank you,

**Mark M. Case
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