

**MDC**



The Metropolitan District  
water supply • environmental services • geographic information

February 3, 2011

Environment Committee  
Public Hearing  
Re: S.B. No. 828

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan District (District) supports S.B. No. 828, an Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Program.

The District is a municipal corporation that provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste (HHW) collection services to the municipalities of Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. The District's HHW Program is extended to towns that are not members of the District. The following twenty, non-District towns currently participate in the HHW Program: Ansonia, Avon, Canton, Cromwell, Derby, Durham, East Granby, East Hampton, East Windsor, Enfield, Ellington, Farmington, Granby, Middlefield, Middletown, Portland, Seymour, Simsbury, South Windsor and Windsor Locks. The District's HHW Program services approximately 700,000 residents.

The District's HHW Program has been operating since 1992. The District holds between seventeen and nineteen one-day HHW collections per year, in various participating towns. In 2009, approximately 26,000 gallons of oil-based paint were collected through the District's HHW Program costing approximately \$106,000 for disposal. Oil-based paint disposal made up approximately 34% of the total HHW disposal costs (\$313,000) for the 2009 collection year. Approximately 29,250 gallons of oil-based paint were collected through the District's HHW Program in 2010. Disposal of the oil-based paint cost \$115,000 or approximately 33% of the total HHW disposal costs (\$344,000) for the 2010 collection year.

If the Paint Stewardship Program legislation is passed, manufacturers of architectural paint within the state will be responsible for financing and operating a program to collect and manage leftover latex and oil-based paint. This will eliminate the cost to the District's HHW Program for disposing of oil-based paint. This is especially important with stressed town budgets. Two towns within the District's program had to cancel their collections in 2009 due to lack of funds. In 2010, these two towns co-hosted a collection rather than hosting separate collections as they have in the past. The District will also be able to expand the services offered to participating towns because the HHW Program does not currently accept latex paint. An increase in participation may be an additional benefit of including latex paint in the Program. Residents who would not have made the effort previously to bring in their old pesticides and other HHW may be more inclined to dispose of these items if given the opportunity to get rid of their latex paint. Retail collection points for paint will also help residents who are moving in the winter or between HHW collection dates, because most collections are held in the spring and fall seasons. This bill is a big step in the right direction for Product Stewardship in CT and should be passed.

Sincerely,

Sally M. Keating, P.E.  
Manager of Environment, Health and Safety  
The Metropolitan District

555 Main Street Post Office Box 800 Hartford, Connecticut 06142-0800 telephone: 860-278-7850 fax: 860-724-2679

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