Representing Household & Institutional Products

Aerosol - Air Care - Cleaners - Polishes
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Testimony of the

CONSUMER SPECIALTY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Remarks on

HOUSE BILL 5438

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF BED BUG INFESTATIONS

presented to the

JOINT HOUSING COMMITTEE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Co-Chairs Bartolomeo and Butler, Ranking Members McKinney and Miller, and distinguished members of the Joint Housing Committee, my name is Owen Caine and I am Manager of State Affairs for the Eastern United States at the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA). CSPA appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony **in regards to House Bill 5438** – *An act concerning the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants regarding the treatment of bed bug infestations.*

The Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA) is the premier trade association representing the interests of companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution and sale of more than $100 billion annually in the U.S. of familiar consumer products that help household and institutional customers create cleaner and healthier environments. CSPA member companies employ hundreds of thousands of people globally. Products CSPA represents include disinfectants that kill germs in homes, hospitals and restaurants; air fresheners, room deodorizers and candles that eliminate odors; pest management products for home, lawn and garden, and pets; cleaning products and polishes for use throughout the home and institutions; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; aerosol products and a host of other products used every day. Through its product stewardship program, Product Care®, and scientific and business-to-business endeavors, CSPA provides its members a platform to effectively address issues regarding the health, safety and sustainability of their products. For more information, please visit www.cspa.org.

CSPA members are committed to manufacturing and marketing safe, innovative and sustainable products that provide essential benefits to consumers while protecting human health and the environment. CSPA member products improve the quality of human life and are necessary to protect the public health against dangerous diseases, infestation and unsanitary conditions. CSPA members are committed to providing products that are thoroughly evaluated for human and environmental safety and go through rigorous safety-based assessments before they are brought to market. CSPA members are also committed to clear and meaningful labeling on consumer products, *i.e.*, easily understood information to ensure safe and effective use and disposal. CSPA has a product stewardship program called Product Care® that assists members in meeting these

commitments. In addition, CSPA members routinely apply green chemistry and green engineering principles in their operations and have been honored with awards for their efforts.

CSPA and the manufacturers of consumer pesticides care deeply about the health and safety of consumers and the environment. As part of the registration process, products are tested extensively, to ensure that all of our pesticide products, when used according to label instructions, do not harm the consumer or the environment and are effective. Additionally, labeling directions provide consumers with extensive and clear information on the appropriate rates, volumes, and application methods for each registered product.

CSPA supports legislation requiring the prompt treatment of bed bug infestations. Over the past couple of years, bed bugs have become an increasing problem, especially in urban areas throughout the country and CSPA members are committed to providing consumers with safe, effective and low cost options for the treatment of bed bug. House Bill 5438 seeks to require that landlords use "certified applicators" in the treatment of bed bugs. This requirement means that landlords are not able to take advantage of the effective, inexpensive and readily available treatment options that are provided by consumer products. For consumers and landlords who often operate on tighter budgets, eliminating this affordable option is especially onerous. CSPA recommends that instead of requiring treatment be solely performed by a "certified applicator", the language allow for the use of consumer products that have be shown to fight bed bug infestations and are available at a lower cost to the consumer.

CSPA supports the measures to help combat the bed bug problem across many states in the country. Our member companies provide a series of treatment methods that help fight bed bug infestations and we encourage you to allow those cheaper options to still be available while preserving the essence of this legislation. Removing the requirement for the use of a "certified applicator" immediately and allowing first for the use of consumer products in this legislation would simply and effectively solve this problem.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak here today and appreciate you all taking the time to hear our thoughts and concerns. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.