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Testimony of the
CONSUMER SPECIALTY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
Remarks on
HOUSE BILL 6759
***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
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Presented by: Owen Caine, Manager, State Affairs – East Region

Co-Chairs Winfield and Butler, Ranking Members Hwang and Kupchick, 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 6759** – *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. CSPA would like to thank the committee members for including consumer product treatment methods in House Bill 6759. This important addition means that landlords are 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, allowing this affordable option is especially necessary. CSPA thanks the committee for not solely requiring treatment be performed by a “certified applicator”, but allows for the use of consumer products that have been 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 continue to allow those cheaper options to be available within this legislation. Allowing first for the use of consumer products as stated in this legislation helps landlords to simply and effectively treat an infestation of bedbugs. CSPA is very supportive of House Bill 6759 and encourages the committee to vote favorably for it in its current form.

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 and I can be reached at 202-833-7308, or via email at ocaine@cspa.org.