



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 11, 2015
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert Klee

Raised House Bill No. 6957 - An Act Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Stewardship Program

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised House Bill No. 6957 - An Act Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Stewardship Program**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

A battery stewardship program is consistent with the DEEP's support for extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives as a means of increasing recycling, lowering municipal costs, and creating economic opportunity through the recovery of discarded materials. DEEP hosted a national dialogue on battery recycling in June of 2014 at which battery industry representatives announced their support for establishing an EPR program for primary and rechargeable batteries. We appreciate their willingness to accept greater responsibility for the end of life management of their products.

While DEEP supports the concept of a battery stewardship program as a means of increasing the availability of battery recycling for Connecticut residents, DEEP cannot support Raised Bill No. 6957 as currently written. We have concerns with some of the definitions and provisions in this bill, but we are willing to work with the committee and key stakeholders to address these concerns.

Specifically, the bill as written would create inefficiencies in collection infrastructure by requiring competing producers or stewardship organizations to establish duplicative systems. We believe the program as a whole should establish a convenient and accessible statewide drop-off network allowing flexibility among the producers and DEEP in how to accomplish this goal. The bill also requires annual registrations for producers and stewardship organizations submitting plans. This provision would require additional administrative work for DEEP without commensurate benefit. There is no existing corollary found in any of the four existing state EPR programs for rechargeable batteries, e-waste, paint and mattresses.

In summary, DEEP believes that a producer-driven battery stewardship program would be beneficial to the citizens of Connecticut and the mission of DEEP to increase recycling. We also believe that with further discussions with key stakeholders, we can craft a bill that is more efficient while providing a necessary level of convenience. We have seen results from the other EPR programs that are increasing recycling, creating jobs, and saving municipalities money. For example, the 2014 e-waste report on the DEEP website identifies that as of last year, the e-waste EPR program has resulted in the recycling of over 25 million pounds of electronics, the creation of 37 jobs, and saved municipalities over one million dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Government Affairs, at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov or Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP's Legislative Liaison, at (860) 424-3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov.