



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

February 13, 2015

Written Testimony to:
Environment Committee
Chair by Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative James Albis

Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis, members of the Environment Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. No. 869 "An Act Establishing a Tire Stewardship Program"

I am Pedro Segarra, Mayor of the City of Hartford. I'm here today to encourage passage of this legislation which I consider sound environmental, business, and municipal policy. Senate Bill 869 follows the model of the mattress, electronic, and paint waste bills passed by the Connecticut Legislature.

Senate Bill 869 is based on the principle of product stewardship, which appropriately shifts responsibility to tire manufacturers for the full life cost, including the end-of-life management of tires. Traditionally, post-consumer disposal costs have been borne by society as a whole. Product Stewardship, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), embeds the costs of disposal within the cost of the product, so that, in effect, the actual user of the product is paying those costs. It does this by making the manufacturer responsible to incorporate those costs in the selling price of the product.

The bill assigns manufacturers the responsibility of establishing a stewardship program, gathering funding from its members, and developing a plan for end-of-life management of tires. The responsibility completely rests with the manufacturers, who will present plans for approval to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), whose only role will be review for conformity with the state's solid waste management program. All financing will be the responsibility of the manufacturers—there would be no state involvement in operations of the program. The state would neither collect nor disburse funds.

Just as mattresses were a financial burden to communities, tires have become a growing expense. In Hartford the growth in abandoned tires has grown 110% since 2013. The Department of Public Works expects to collect approximately 9000 tires. The disposal tip fees have also grown by 70%. Costs associated with staffing the collection of tires has grown commensurately. The Sanitation Division of Public Works has had to add a tire collection service for abandoned tires.

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In addition to dumping in City vacant lots and on the curbside, our Parks have increasingly been a target of illegal dumping. EPR for tires can virtually eliminate illegal dumping by removing fees at the point of disposal.

Finally, Connecticut can continue the past success in spurring economic development in Connecticut by attracting a recycler for tires rather than have tires delivered to pulp mills in Maine.

I urge you to examine the merits of the bill, to understand how this will save the towns money, address a serious illegal dumping problem, create new businesses and jobs, and provide for the appropriate post-consumer disposal of materials according to the teachings of product stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Segarra', written in a cursive style.

Pedro Segarra
Mayor