Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

February 19, 2016

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **H.B. 5149 "An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses For Discarded Tires and The Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses Or Permits".**

As you may know, Connecticut's only tire processing plant closed in 2013 leaving municipalities with few options for tire disposal. In Hartford, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of abandoned tires. The Department of Public Works (DPW) anticipates that it will collect roughly 9,000 tires in 2016. Due to a rise in abandoned tires DPW was compelled to create a collection unit specifically for abandoned tires which has multiplied the city's expenses.

There are many ways to address this problem including creating a Product Stewardship program. I urge you to support this bill that would require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to examine this important environmental issue facing the city of Hartford and state of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606