



February 28, 2018

Senator Ted Kennedy
Senator Craig Miner
Representative Mike Demicco
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Testimony regarding HB 5128, An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses for Discarded Tires and the Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses or Permits

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Miner, Chairman Demicco, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 5128. I am writing to indicate our support for the intent of HB 5128 to increase tire recycling and reduce illegal dumping of discarded tires. To meet those goals, we strongly recommend the establishment of a state-wide, tire stewardship program in Connecticut, managed and sustainably funded by manufacturers.

Connecticut generates about 3.5 million scrap tires annually, about 75 percent of which are burned as tire-derived fuel (TDF) rather than reused or recycled into useful products. In 2014, 16,000 tires illegally dumped on state roads were picked up by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Manufacturer-funded tire stewardship programs have proven successful in addressing both of these issues. They internalize the external costs created by TDF, increase consumer collection convenience, and provide a continuous flow of quality material to recyclers, allowing long-term investments in local recycling facilities. Under a similar program, the province of Ontario, Canada achieved a 100 percent diversion rate – all scrap tires collected are recycled and diverted from landfills and TDF, and illegal dumping has been virtually eliminated. Since 2009, Ontario Tire Stewardship has recycled 100 million tires and invested more than \$100 million into the Ontario economy through research and development, and created hundreds of jobs.

The Connecticut Legislature and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) already have experience passing and implementing four extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws (electronics, paint, mercury thermostats, and mattresses). These programs have diverted more than 26 million pounds of material from disposal, yielded a cumulative cost savings of more than \$2.6 million per year to Connecticut municipalities, provided additional recycling services worth another \$6.7 million, led to the creation of more than 100 jobs, and reduced greenhouse gas

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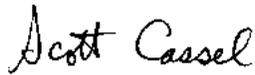
Non-chlorine Bleached | 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper | Soy Ink

emissions by more than 13 million kilograms of carbon equivalent. A tire stewardship program will provide more opportunities for consumers to properly manage their unwanted materials, provide fiscal relief for local governments in managing tires, create recycling jobs, and protect Connecticut's environment and public health.

PSI was founded in 2000 with support from numerous state and local government officials nationwide to provide a forum for objective research and discussion with industry on waste management issues. The gubernatorial appointees for 47 state environmental agencies (including DEEP) formally wrote our organization to endorse the key principle of product stewardship, which states that manufacturers have a significant role to play in reducing waste caused by their products. Hundreds of local governments (including many in Connecticut), as well as over 120 corporate and organizational partners, share this core principle, which is the centerpiece of nearly 110 EPR laws passed on 13 product categories in 33 states.

To meet the intent of HB 5128 to increase tire recycling and reduce illegal dumping of discarded tires in Connecticut, we urge you to support the passage of a bill that establishes a manufacturer-funded tire stewardship program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Office/Founder