

Testimony of David Greenstein, Vice President Lakin Tire East

HOUSE BILL No. 5128 AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFICIAL END USES FOR DISCARDED TIRES AND THE EFFICACY OF TIRE HAULING LICENSES OR PERMITS

February 23, 2018

My name is David Greenstein, I am a Vice President of Lakin Tire East, located in West Haven, CT and I am here today to address House Bill 5128, An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses For Discarded Tires and The Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses or Permits.

Lakin Tire has nearly 100 years of leadership and in-depth experience in the scrap tire industry; we provide safe, smart removal and recycling of scrap tires. Lakin Tire East has made substantial investments in state of the art technology and equipment. We have operated in Connecticut since 1979. We currently employ approximately 200 people at our West Haven facility and occupy nearly 100,000 square feet of warehouse and office space. Lakin Tire has recycled over 50 Million Connecticut sourced scrap tires for almost 50 years. This represents over 50% of the discarded tires generated in the State.

Currently, Lakin Tire supplies the equivalent of 4.5 million tires in the form of feed- stock to a crumb rubber producer located in the State of New York. This crumb rubber producer uses this feed-stock to manufacture products such as molded goods, floor mats, and athletic field turfs. We believe that the state and DEEP would agree that in today's market place these uses represent the highest form of recycling our State's discarded tires. Bottom line, today, the State of Connecticut is one of the country's leading States in converting discarded tires into crumb rubber.

While Connecticut in recent years has enjoyed this crumb rubber market through Lakin Tire the remaining Connecticut tires and the entire New England region continues to rely on tire derived fuel as the only responsible means of recycling tires. Lakin Tire shares DEEP's concern for the need for' additional end-use markets.

But to mandate the cessation of tire derive fuel will not help create other markets. Firstly, there is not a single crumb rubber producer in all of New England. Secondly, crumb rubber producers in other parts of the country generally have struggled financially as the end product is not cost competitive. If this one producer of crumb rubber that Lakin is supplying feedstock to were to go away, the

State would be in dire need of a scrap tire disposal option or options. Therefore, to eliminate the ability to burn tire derived fuel could be devastating.

The State and Lakin Tire are goal aligned in identifying the highest and most beneficial end uses of discarded tires. Having said that, if the vehicle for exploring such end uses is to established a Tire Stewardship program, Lakin Tire would urge the state and DEEP to include Lakin Tire and its years of experience within the Stewardship program.

In addition, Lakin Tire believes that implementing a well thought out tire hauling license and/or permit program could be beneficial. Ensuring that tire haulers are held to appropriate and reasonable standards should yield positive results.

Lakin Tire is committed to working with the Committee and DEEP to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision on HB 5128.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with these comments.