



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – February 23, 2017  
Environmental Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert Klee

DEEP appreciates the opportunity to provide brief testimony on SB 104, HB 5128, and HB 5130. We are eager to work with the proponents of these bills on the language prior to this committee's JF deadline.

**Senate Bill 104: An Act Prohibiting the Use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems**

DEEP shares the concerns of the proponents about the impacts of automatic pesticide misting systems. DEEP cautions the committee that the agency will be unable to craft regulations and conduct enforcement within existing resources.

**House Bill 5128: An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses for Discarded Tires and the Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses or Permits**

DEEP has already conducted extensive research in the areas called for by this bill and would be happy to share its information with this committee. Establishing a licensing or permitting program, such as is done in a number of states, would require the department to establish a new state program requiring funding and hiring additional staff. DEEP believes the best strategy for managing scrap tires is to establish a stewardship program similar to programs already in place for paint and mattresses.

**House Bill 5130: An Act Concerning the Sewage Spill Right-to-Know Act and Expanding Continuing Education Programs for Wastewater Operators.**

*Sewage Spill Right-to-Know*

DEEP supports enhanced transparency regarding sewage spills, including timely notification to the public in the event of unanticipated sewage spills that represent a threat to public health. In response to Public Act 12-11, DEEP developed an electronic reporting system to facilitate timely notifications to the public. However, not all sewage treatment plants and collection systems currently utilize this system. Further changes to statute will be needed to require all sewage treatment plants and collection systems to utilize DEEP's electronic reporting system in order to achieve timely notice to the public. In addition, we believe language is needed to require all sewage spills be reported electronically. This will need to be crafted to include those municipalities with sewer collection systems but no wastewater treatment plant, Combined Sewer Overflows, and permitted treatment plant bypasses. This should also be crafted to include private sewage treatment plants or collection systems. Implementation may require additional resources. DEEP has been working with advocates on crafting alternative language to accomplish the goal of this bill while addressing these concerns.



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*Expanding Continuing Education Programs for Wastewater Operators*

Expanding the wastewater operator certification program by creating a renewal process and a continuing education program would help in further professionalizing the operator certification process and build additional operator proficiencies. However, it also creates a significant agency burden in order to both draft regulations and administer two new programs – a renewal program and a continuing education program. In addition, as the bill creates continuing education requirements which predominately apply to municipal treatment plants, it creates a potential fiscal impact upon those municipalities. DEEP would oppose this provision as written but hopes to work with the proponents to achieve the intent within existing resources.