

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5352  
AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE TIRE STEWARDSHIP  
**Title:** PROGRAM.  
**Vote Date:** 3/20/2024  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable  
**PH Date:** 3/15/2024  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The CT tire extended producer responsibility (EPR) program has allowed for more sustainable tire disposal in the state; several technical changes would help to ensure that the program operates smoothly. As the state's tire EPR program is the first in the country, additional time for implementation of EPR plans formed a part of the changes, as well as a slight reduction in DEEP administrative fees to be collected.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **David Greenstein, Executive Vice President, Liberty Tire Recycling**

The group request an amendment clarifying language on stewardship programs balancing of costs when selecting service providers. The testifiers also request language about the stewardship organizational guidance concerning:

- 1) Reviewing a company's performance history when selecting service providers
- 2) Incorporating existing contracts into the program, as long as those contracts support the performance goals of the program
- 3) Submitting potential service providers to a financial qualifying test, to ensure the citizens of Connecticut do not end up financially responsible for any failure on a service providers end

They believe these commonsense changes align with the original intent of the law and provide a better outcome for the end-of-life tires without taxpayers being responsible for the cost.

**Sean Moore, Senior Director, U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association**

The Association supports the decisions to:

- 1) Increase the timeframe from 120 to 180 days for implementation of an EPR plan after approval by DEEP. This would allow for a smoother transition, as well as bringing the EPR program into line with other non-tire state EPR programs.
- 2) Allow slight flexibility for Tire Stewardship Organizations' budgets, allowing for them to plan around potential economic downturns.
- 3) Reduce DEEP's fee concerning administrative costs; it is the Association's belief that illegally dumped tires should be combatted using a portion of the fees. They also supply suggested language for this section of the bill.
- 4) The Association suggests giving DEEP powers to conditionally approve plans as it would help to reduce administrative back-and-forth.
- 5) The Association also suggests giving DEEP the power to waive strict compliance with law requirements to allow for alternative compliance approaches when unanticipated compliance challenges arise.

**Lindsay Seti, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**

CCM requests an amendment to section 2 of the bill such that half of the administrative fees go to municipalities to help offset the handling costs at the local levels. They believe that providing municipalities with financial support will strengthen the system to dispose of tires at the local level.

**Ave Schrage**

The testifier expresses opposition to the bill.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Nicholas Amato**

The testifier expresses opposition to the bill.

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**