



A 2007 Project of the South Central Council of Regional Water Authority & the South Central Regional Council of Governments
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**Environment Committee Public Hearing
Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

Testimony of behalf of HazWaste Central
The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
and

The Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee

Submitted by Lori Vitagliano, HazWaste Central Coordinator
& CT Product Stewardship Council Co-Chair

In Support of SB 828 – An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Program

Thank you Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer and members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of SB 828 on behalf of HazWaste Central and the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, (SCCRWA) and the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee.

HazWaste Central is a partnership of the South Central Connecticut Regional Council of Governments, (SCCROG) and the SCCRWA. This regional permanent household hazardous waste collection program represents sixteen municipalities: Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Fairfield, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge. HazWaste Central was created in 1989 as the first permanent household hazardous waste facility in the state resulting from the partnership between the SCCROG and the SCCRWA to protect the region's environment and public water supplies.

Disposal costs for the household hazardous wastes brought to HazWaste Central are charged back to each member municipality. In 2010, the oil based paint disposal expense accounted for 46%, or \$107,000, of the program's waste disposal expense. Passage of SB 828 would significantly reduce the waste disposal expenses for these municipalities. If the law existed, the member communities would have saved at least \$100,000 each year.

The paint disposal expense would be reduced because the proposed bill calls for the creation of a representative organization, created by the paint producers to implement and provide a funding mechanism for the paint stewardship program. HazWaste Central and similar regional programs would work with the representative organization to implement the proposed Paint Stewardship Program.

In addition, the proposed Paint Stewardship Program could provide convenient means for consumers to properly dispose of oil based paint because retailers would be allowed to offer additional collection locations on a voluntary basis. The program would also allow for the recycling of latex paint.

This paint management legislation is consistent with the State of Connecticut's Solid Waste Management Plan of 2006. According to the plan, "Solid waste management efforts in Connecticut will be guided by the principle of shared responsibility or product stewardship."

The Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee has distributed a fact sheet to you describing the initiative in more detail. This initiative is supported by the American Coatings Association, representing paint manufacturers.

HazWaste Central, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council Paint Initiative Subcommittee encourage members of the Committee to pass SB 828 to help Connecticut's residents make the right disposal choices for their waste and help the participating municipalities to reduce expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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