



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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Testimony In Support of

SB 828,

AA Establishing A Paint Stewardship Program

Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, Representative Chapin, Senator McKinney and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 828, AA Establishing A Paint Stewardship Program. My name is Rep. Pat Widlitz and I represent the 98th District including the towns of Guilford and Branford.

The proposed legislation is an important environmental initiative of the CT Product Stewardship Council which will increase the recovery of post consumer paint while saving our municipalities significant amounts of money, and provide better service to Connecticut's residents/taxpayers and businesses. It requires the producers of architectural paint sold at retail in CT to jointly establish a statewide paint stewardship program through a non-profit organization created by the producers. The non-profit organization will create and finance a plan that will provide for convenient and available state-wide collection of post-consumer paint, promote the reuse and recycling of "unused" paint, and ensure that such paint is managed in an environmentally sound way. All of this with the support of the American Coatings Association, the paint producers' national association, and most important-at no cost to the state!

Why do we need this program? A little background:

1. An estimated 7.44 million gallons of paint, both latex and oil-based are sold in CT each year
2. Approximately 10% (744,000 gallons) is left over or goes unused.
3. Consumers need legal, affordable options to dispose of their unused paint.
4. Oil-based paint should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
5. Latex paint currently has to be completely dried for disposal as solid waste and is not accepted at HHW collections.
6. Most latex paint can be reused or recycled, but there is no program in CT where consumers can take unused latex paint for recycling.
7. Only about 136,000 gallons or 18% of the 744,000 gallons of paint available for disposal each year in CT are actually brought to household hazardous waste collections. The rest is most likely piling up in our basements and garages!
8. The cost for disposing of these 136,000 gallons of paint was \$620,000 in 2008 or \$4.50/gal which was charged to the 150 municipalities that offer HHW collections. **THIS WILL SAVE MUNICIPALITIES \$620,000 PER YEAR.**
9. Paint disposal accounts for 30-50% of the total cost of a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection.

The Paint Stewardship initiative is consistent with the 2006 CT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN which states that, "Solid waste management efforts in CT will be guided by the principal of shared responsibility or "product stewardship."

This legislation also builds upon the approach we took with the electronics recycling product stewardship legislation passed in 2007 and recently implemented.

During last year's legislative session this legislation, HB 5122 , passed unanimously in the House but died on the Senate consent calendar in the final hours of the session. I urge the Committee to make it a priority for this legislative session.