

SCRRA

Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority

Office of the Regional Recycling Coordinator

**Committee on Environment
Public Hearing, March 1, 2010
Senate Bill 828**

An Act Establishing a Paint Stewardship Program

Testimony on behalf of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional
Resources Recovery Authority

Winston Averill
Regional Recycling Coordinator

My name is Winston Averill, and I am the Regional Recycling Coordinator for the Southeastern Ct. Regional Resources Recovery Authority, (SCRRA), the waste and recycling Authority for 12 communities in Connecticut's Southeast corner. I am here to testify in support of SB 828.

One of my responsibilities at SCRRA is oversight of the region's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection efforts. We hold 8 or 9 collections each calendar year with a participation of more than 2400 households across 21 Cities and Towns. For calendar 2010, our total costs were almost \$195,000. Connecticut's landscape reflects an array of successful HHW events – several permanent facilities and one-day regional programs. Similar to us, these programs are very popular – and very expensive. Senate Bill 828 has the capability to effect significant saving to our region and member towns in several ways:

- The paints addressed by SB 828 comprise 30 – 50 % of our region's incoming material in any given year. That does not include latex paint! The potential saving with SB 828 are \$59K – \$98K . With municipal budgets facing very uncertain times the saving conferred by SB 828 may result in the retention of these HHW collection services.
- These saving can be used to both continue and expand HHW services in our region.

- In general, latex paint, (the most commonly used paint), is not accepted by Connecticut's various HHW collection systems. Instead, our residents are told to "dry latex out and dispose of it with their trash". Many households do not properly manage this material. As a result the handling of latex paint is shifted to the waste stream, with its transportation and disposal expenses. The inclusion of paint into the trash creates a mess at the point of curbside collection, adds to our garbage volume, and drives up costs for Connecticut's cities and towns.
- The Product Stewardship structure of SB 828 mirrors the concept behind Connecticut's Electronic Recycling legislation, and is consistent with our Solid Waste Management Plan.
- SB 828 has a broad level of support, including the paint industry, non-profits, regional authorities and Connecticut's cities and towns.

We would urge that SB 828 become a permanent part of Connecticut's waste management system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 828.

Winston Averill
Regional Recycling Coordinator
7 Hurlbutt Road
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
(860) 464-2509