

Testimony emailed 3/12/25

Chair Sheldon and members of the committee,

Thank you for taking the time today to discuss H.319.

The Chittenden Solid Waste banned hazardous products from going into the trash many years ago under our ordinance and have been collecting household hazardous waste since 1991.

I was involved in working on the extended producer responsibility (EPR) bill for paint which passed in 2013 and the numerous EPR bills on household hazardous waste (HHW) over a span of 8 years including H.67 that passed last session.

As I explained today in committee, The EPR paint law does not require the producers to cover all the costs that are involved with collecting and managing unwanted paint. Specifically, they do not pay for the contractor set-up fees that can run a municipality over \$10,000 for a single hazardous waste collection event, labor, outreach and education and other collection costs. PaintCare pays for paint to be managed properly once it is collected (transportation and disposal or recycling).

The HHW EPR bill explicitly requires the producers to pay for the cost of collecting the products. This was very important to include in this legislation because of our experience with PaintCare not covering these costs.

The Solid Waste District Managers Association opposes moving the paint-related products from the EPR HHW law to the Paint EPR law for two reasons:

1. The PaintCare program will not pay for the collection costs of the paint-related products. This is a significant amount of material that municipalities are collecting and managing. According to the American Coatings Association paint-related products currently captured in the HHW EPR law represents 51% by weight and 62% by units of the total amount of products that are covered.
2. Collecting paint-related products separately for the PaintCare program will require additional labor to sort this material and additional space to store it. These costs would not be paid for.

Thank you again for your time.

Jen

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