



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 16, 2014

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chair
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Room 101
Legislative Office Building
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

SUBJECT: HB 1570-FN, as amended by the House, an act establishing a paint stewardship program

Dear Chairman Prescott and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1570-FN. This bill establishes a paint stewardship program to provide for the collection and proper recycling or disposal of unused post-consumer architectural paint in New Hampshire. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports the bill. During consideration of the bill in the House, we worked extensively with the bill sponsors on a number of concerns with the mechanics of the bill and believe they are addressed in the amended version.

Unused paint presents a waste management challenge for nearly every homeowner and small business in our state. It is often stored in garages or basements, where it ages and becomes unfit for use, and can contribute to poor indoor air quality. Typically, homeowners discard their unwanted latex paint with the household trash, increasing solid waste disposal costs for local communities. Leftover oil-based paints are generally considered to be household hazardous wastes (HHW), and represent the highest volume material received by HHW collections, at great expense to the municipalities that sponsor those collections. The paint stewardship program proposed by this bill would impose a stewardship fee on retail paint sales at the point of sale, the revenue from which would be used by a stewardship organization to provide a network of collection sites where our citizens could bring their waste paint, free of charge, for subsequent collection and proper recycling or disposal.

DES supports the concept of product stewardship, also known as "Extended Producer Responsibility" (EPR), because it encourages all parties that design, manufacture, sell, and use a product to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts associated with the product throughout its life and when discarded. This creates a framework to view end-of-life and unwanted products as resources rather than wastes, leading to cost savings for waste disposal, conservation of resources, and protection of environmental quality. The program that would be established by HB 1570 is a good example of EPR and is similar to programs that have been established or are being established in other states. DES believes such a program can be successful in New Hampshire, and would provide for convenient, safe and environmentally-sound disposal of unused paint for our citizens.

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In summary, DES supports this important bill and respectfully encourages your favorable consideration. If you have any questions regarding our support of the bill, please contact either Sharon Yergeau, Supervisor of the Solid Waste Compliance Assurance Section (sharon.yergeau@des.nh.gov, 271-2906) or Mike Wimsatt, Director of the Waste Management Division (Michael.Wimsatt@des.nh.gov, 271-2905).

Sincerely,

for 
Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1570