

**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
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April 13, 2016

Chairman Brian Dempsey
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Support For S.2109, An Act establishing the
Massachusetts paint stewardship program**



Dear Chairman Dempsey:

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative supports S2109, An Act establishing the Massachusetts paint stewardship program. This legislation would establish a convenient statewide paint collection and recycling program for all Massachusetts residents and businesses which is operated and financed by the paint industry.

Our fourteen South Shore Recycling Cooperative towns **spend about \$85,000 annually** to collect and manage an estimated **75,000 gallons of leftover paint and stain** each year. \$55,000 of that covers the cost of managing about 6,000 gallons of non-latex paint and stain as hazardous waste. S2109 would appropriately shift the cost of managing this material from our municipal taxpayers to consumers and the product manufacturer.

According to the US EPA¹, **about 10%** of paint purchased by consumers each year **goes unused**. In Mass., that amounts to 1,600,000 gallons of wasted product. With 20% of paint being non-latex, that means another **8,000 or so gallons** of oil based paint and stain is sitting in basements or being **illegally disposed** in our member towns.

Since about 80% of paint sold is now latex, residents of our towns generate another **60,000 gallons/year** of leftover latex paint. When disposed in the trash, the cost to our towns and their taxpayers is another **\$30,000/year**, and would be a terrible **waste** of useful product.

S.2109 is actively **supported by the American Coatings Association (ACA)**, which represents 95% of U.S. paint manufacturers. ACA's support has been a key reason for the passage of effective paint stewardship laws in eight states and the District of Columbia. These laws have benefitted municipalities financially, economically, and environmentally.

If S2109 is passed, our Member **towns will realize significant savings**, and it would greatly **expand opportunities for the safe and proper management of leftover paint for our residents**. Furthermore, it would put a valuable but commonly wasted product back into use rather than up in smoke or buried in the ground.

Support for S.2109 would extend Massachusetts' current product stewardship leadership to a fourth consumer product, architectural paint. **We respectfully request that the House Committee on Ways and Means report this important legislation out favorably for a floor vote as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,



Claire L. Galkowski, Executive Director

Cc: South Shore delegation:

Representatives Garrett Bradley, Thomas Calter, James Cantwell, Josh Cutler, David DeCoste, Geoff Diehl, Robert Koczera, Ronald Mariano, James Murphy, Mathew Muratore, Keiko Orrall

¹ U.S. EPA Sector Strategies. *Quantifying the Disposal of Post-Consumer Architectural Paint*. April 2007.
<http://www.productstewardship.us/associations/6596/files/PaintQuantityReportApril182007.pdf>