

**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
ssrcoop.info



PO Box 247
Westwood, MA 02090
781.329.8318
ssrecyclingcoop@
verizon.net

**Testimony to Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture in support of S408, Establishing the Massachusetts
Paint Stewardship Program
6/23/2015**

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative is composed of the municipal solid waste managers from fourteen towns, with a collective population of 300,000. Our Board voted to support S408, which would shift the cost of paint management from our taxpayers and municipalities to the producers and consumers of this difficult to manage waste. This would save our towns roughly **\$83,000/year**, and provide our residents with more and better options for disposing of their estimated **75,000 gallons/year of leftover paint**.



Here's how it breaks down:

- In 2014, our towns paid \$85,000 for the proper management of materials collected at our 12 household hazardous waste collections. A study we conducted at the busy Hanover event last fall showed that **42% of the volume collected was leftover oil based paint and stain**, consistent with reports from other sources. Paint and stain accounted for over 30% of the cost, or about \$26,000.
- Cohasset, Duxbury, Norwell and Weymouth spent an additional **\$27,000** to manage non-latex paint collected at their facilities from spring through fall. Weymouth is the only town that accepts it during the winter. Due to the high cost and low toxicity, Weymouth had to scale back from accepting all to only non-latex paint 2 years ago.
- While there is no way to directly measure the quantity and disposition of paint that isn't brought to HHW events, based on EPA estimates, residents of our towns likely generate another **70,000 gallons/year** of leftover, mostly latex, paint. If this is disposed in the trash, the cost to our towns would be another **\$30,000/year**.

The SSRC's dozen household hazardous waste collections each year run in the spring and fall. In summer and winter I always get calls from desperate residents who have sold their houses and need to get rid of their hazardous waste. In the summer, they can pay \$2.50/lb. and bring it to Clean Harbors in Braintree, but nobody offers winter collection. If this bill is passed, participating **retailers will accept all paint and stain year round**, as they do in the states that have implemented this law. This will be a tremendous convenience for residents.

The SSRC has advertised that latex paint is not accepted at our collections since 1999, but hopeful residents still bring large quantities. When they do, I hand them a paint stick and explain that "Latex paint is messy, but not hazardous. If reusable, recycle at The Paint Exchange, or dry with cat litter & dispose".

We are fortunate to have **The Paint Exchange** in Rockland. TPE is now able to accept and recycle 10000-2000 gallons/month, but must charge \$2/can to cover costs for unusable paint brought to their facility. This spring alone, they gathered nearly a thousand gallons of incidental paint mistakenly brought to our HHW collections.

Passage of this bill would save our taxpayers and towns money that could go to better use, provide a convenient way for residents to handle this difficult to manage waste, appropriately allocate the cost of management, support the local economy, and put valuable materials back on store shelves, walls, and window trim instead of in the trash. **The SSRC asks that S408 be reported out favorably.**

Sincerely,

Claire L. Galkowski, Executive Director
South Shore Recycling Cooperative



**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**

**320 Dover Rd.
Westwood, MA 02090**

Joint Committee on Environment,
Agriculture and Natural Resources
State House Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133