

## **Testimony In Opposition to H8499 (RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PROPER MANAGEMENT OF UNUSED PAINT)**

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Hearing Date: May 5, 2026

Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I submit testimony in strong Opposition to H8499 (RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PROPER MANAGEMENT OF UNUSED PAINT). The current law regarding the proper management of unused paint is WORKING! If it isn't broke, don't fix it right? Now the sponsors of H8499 want to create a law that WON'T WORK for proper management of paint disposal. Where and how will the disposal of paint occur if this law is canceled? Spoiler Alert! It will end up in our forests, waterways, on the side of RI roads, and in the general refuge (to end up in the Johnston Landfill).

There are important and valid reasons why unused paint must be properly disposed of, including:

- Paint contains harmful substances (including toxic chemicals) that are dangerous to the health of all living things (humans, wildlife, environmental ecosystems...)
- Paint if incinerated, creates dangerous air pollution and toxic emissions that are ingested by living things, and deposited onto nature (including food).
- Paint (especially oil based) contains hazardous chemicals that can contaminate soil, water and air.
- Paint can overwhelm sewer systems and sewer treatment plants.
- Paint can turn dumpsites into hazardous areas where living things play and work.
- Paint that is not properly disposed of is extremely difficult and expensive to clean up and to remediate the contaminated sites.

Is it the intent of the bill sponsors to help ensure the 6 bullet points above become a reality? I would hope not, but their bill H8499 will certainly ensure all of the 6 points above occur.

H8499 is irresponsible and negligent. The dangers that await our state should this bill become law are obvious and completely unnecessary. I cited 6 of these dangers above that you should ask the sponsors to answer.

Please do not advance this devious bill.

Thank you,

George Voutes