



NYSAR3 Supports S6907 (Grisanti) / A09143-A (Rosenthal)

Prohibits Mercury-Added Rotational Balancing Products Bill

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) is New York State's premier recycling association. NYSAR3 is the New York State affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition with over 150 members representing municipal recycling leaders, not-for-profit environmental organizations, businesses and individuals with expertise in waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting mercury-added rotational balancing and mercury-added wheel weight products.

PURPOSE: To prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of rotational balancing products containing any mercury for use on various products including wheels. It would further restrict the use of this product by any person replacing or balancing tires in NYS.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS: The proposed bill would specifically prohibit the sale, offer for sale or distribution of mercury-added rotational balancing products after April 1, 2015 and prohibit replacing or balancing motor vehicle wheels with mercury containing products after that date. The proposal would also prohibit the sale of any new motor vehicle after April 1, 2016 that contained any mercury-added wheel weight or wheel balancing product.

NYSAR3 Statement of Support: Mercury is a highly toxic substance that accumulates in the environment. Medical research has shown that exposure to unacceptable levels of mercury can impact brain and liver functions and cause other related health problems. As a result, past legislative and programmatic efforts in New York provide a comprehensive set of restrictions for the sale of most mercury-containing products for which cost-effective non-toxic alternatives are readily available. Unfortunately, these existing restrictions do not specifically prohibit the sale of rotational balancing products containing mercury. This proposal would correct that exception and would make it clear that these mercury-containing rotational balancing products would be restricted from sale or distribution in New York State.

NYSAR3 notes that each Mercury-Added Rotational Balancing Product may contain as much as 28 ounces of mercury, which is equivalent to:

- 200 mercury thermostats (assumes average of 4 grams of mercury / thermostat).
- 200,000 compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs (assumes about 4 mg of mercury / CFL).