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Testimony before Senate Environment Committee

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Senate Bill 126

I am happy to be here today with Sen. Kedzie, Rep. Clark and Rep. Tauchen to speak in favor of SB 126 which reauthorizes the Green Tier program. (Environmental Results Program)

Green Tier is based on a collaborative system of contracts and charters crafted jointly by participating businesses and the DNR. These contracts and charters streamline environmental requirements in many cases and encourage new environmental technologies

Green Tier was initially authorized for a 5 year period which ends in July of 2009. In the past 5 years, Green Tier has proved itself to be an innovative and successful program, achieving superior environmental results, warranting the removal of that sunset date.

A Green Tier Advisory committee was created as part of the original legislation. That committee has been working with the Green Tier program since the beginning and has developed a set of legislative recommendations for program improvements. This bill is based on the recommendations of the Green Tier Advisors.

The legislation does the following:

- Removes the sunset dates for both Green Tier and the Compliance Audit Program
- Formally changes the names of the Environmental Results Program and Environmental Improvement Program to their common names of Green Tier and Environmental Compliance Audit Program
- Allows for smooth transitions for companies participating in the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program (Green Tier's predecessor) to Tier 2 status
- Allows for reporting of violations that are discovered through a company's environmental management system, not just through an annual audit
- Allows the Department to issue a charter to an association of entities that are not yet in Green Tier to either facilitate entry to the program or take actions to achieve superior environmental performance
- Makes various technical changes recommended by the Green Tier advisors