

Testimony of Tom Decker, Jr. –
President - SealMaster – Cockeysville, MD
HB77 Oppose

Our Products Safely Provide a Needed Service

In Maryland, a vast amount of pavement sealer is applied to extend the useful life of commercial parking lots. HB77, if passed, will eliminate the most effective pavement sealer products that Maryland commercial parking lot owners and sealcoating contractors depend upon to keep costs down.

Our Products Help Reduce Costs and Harm to the Environment

If HB77 passes the alternative for commercial parking lot owners would be milling off the top 2 inches of asphalt, then repaving with new asphalt. Milling and repaving with new asphalt are clearly much more damaging to the environment than an application of coal tar or LP pavement sealer. Moreover, milling and repaving is often 10 times the cost to apply coal tar or LP pavement sealer.

Product Bans Have Led to a Maryland Plant Closing and Loss of Jobs

Product bans in four (4) of Maryland's most heavily populated counties have already resulted in the closing of GemSeal Pavement Products in White Marsh. Since 1987, GemSeal safely manufactured pavement sealer products, but the bans forced them to close, and 14 well-paid employees lost their jobs.

I Will Lose my Livelihood and My Employees Will Lose their Jobs

For 25 years, I've operated SealMaster in Cockeysville, the only remaining manufacturer of coal tar and LP base pavement sealer in Maryland. The passage of HB77 will reduce our revenue to a point where we will have no choice but to close our business permanently. I will lose my livelihood and 22 of my employees will lose good-paying jobs and health insurance. Moreover, hundreds of Maryland sealcoating contractors and their employees will lose their jobs as well.

Since the early 1960s, Maryland manufacturers, and contractors have safely applied these products. The bill's proponents cannot produce evidence of a single person who has had been affected by the products. The passage of HB77 will only cause a significant loss of Maryland jobs and increase costs for owners of commercial parking lots and driveways.

Please Vote no on HB77.

An Independently Owned Franchise

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