



**Neyra Industries, Inc.**

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February 12, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of Committee  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Vote No on HB-77

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

As a second-generation owner of a long-standing and well-respected pavement maintenance manufacturing company, I would like to share my concerns with the effects HB-77 would have not only on my company and our customers in Maryland, but also our industry as a whole.

A family-owned and operated company since 1975, Neyra Industries manufactures a full line of pavement sealers made from various raw materials, including asphalt and refined coal tar. We have always provided an assortment of coatings to support the needs of our customers, and we will continue to provide innovative coatings that meet those ever-changing needs. However, a ban such as HB-77 could completely shut down our industry making pavement maintenance an unpreferred and even feared practice altogether regardless of what products are used.

The type of coal tar used in sealants is a by-product of the steel-making process. It has a long history of safe use. It is classified as “generally regarded as safe” by the FDA, and is an active ingredient in many products used by consumers. Coal tar sealcoat is formulated, distributed, and applied by thousands of local businesses across the United States, virtually all of which are small, family-owned enterprises offering good-paying jobs for general and skilled labor. We need more, not less, of these kinds of jobs in the United States. The HB-77 bill could not only destroy sealer manufacturers and the contracting companies that apply our products, but also thousands of jobs filled by the blue-collar labor force that is already hurting for employment.

Because they have been thoroughly tested, studied and analyzed, the risks thought to be associated with exposures to PAH-containing materials, such as coal tar sealer, are understood by the scientific community. Those risks are low—whether evaluated from the point of view of real-world exposures or from the perspective of studies conducted in a laboratory. Proponents for HB-77 do not have evidence that PAHs from coal tar or alternative sealer products have ever harmed anyone or the waterways in Maryland.

**For the consideration of the entire pavement maintenance industry and the thousands of contractors and laborers that could be severely affected in Maryland, please vote “no” on HB-77.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Neyra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'N' and a long, trailing 'y'.

Nathan Neyra

President

Neyra Industries

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