

Support for HB 77

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Pinsky and Senator Kagan

Hi, I'm Mimmi, and House Bill 77, sponsored by Delegate Vaughn Stewart from Montgomery County, calls for a ban on coal tar pavement products with a 0.1% PAH limit. Why is this limit necessary? Allow me to explain. This prevents people from using ECR and other products as a loophole, which prevents sealants from harming the environment. ECR is a new sealant on the market that also contains toxic PAHs. If we don't include a 0.1% PAH limit, it would exclude ECR in the ban, and potentially allow it to harm the environment. However, if we include the 0.1% limit, we can prevent other sealants from making it to the market in Maryland. Also, products are currently available with PAH concentrations well below the 0.1% limit, for example, the asphalt-based average is .005%. ECR's PAH concentration levels are not as high as coal tar, but it's significantly higher than asphalt. The European Union classifies road waste with 0.1% PAHs or higher as hazardous waste. This means that if it's above this limit, it can be really harmful to the people and the environment. Coal Tar has already been banned in many places, including various states, counties, and even major department stores, as Claire said before. These states include Washington, Minnesota, Maine, and the District of Columbia also has a ban in place. Bans in other local areas include Montgomery County (2012), Prince George's County (2015), Anne Arundel County (2015), and Howard County (2018), which we helped ban. Because of bans in 4 Maryland counties, **about 45% of all Maryland residents are now under a coal tar ban, so why not ban it in the whole state?** We hope you will support the bill in order to improve the health of Maryland residents as well as its aquatic life, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Let's join the 22.6 million Americans who are now under a coal tar ban. Thank you for your time.

Signed,
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