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March 15, 2021

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Miller Senate Office Building – 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 127, An act concerning Maryland Paint Stewardship

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Product Stewardship (PSI) **strongly supports HB 127**, which would establish a producer-run paint stewardship program in Maryland.

Maryland residents generate more than one million gallons of leftover paint each year. Most of this paint is disposed in the trash or down household and storm drains because municipalities cannot afford to collect and manage all of it. Enacting HB 127 would:

- Relieve a significant financial burden on municipalities;
- Establish new convenient locations for residents to drop off their paint year-round;
- Increase paint reuse and recycling;
- Protect Maryland’s water bodies and other natural resources; and
- Support recycling sector jobs.

The coatings industry is the first – and remains the only – industry to work collaboratively with others to take responsibility for safely recovering the products they put on the market. More than 15 years ago, PSI mediated discussions that led to an agreement on a model paint stewardship bill, which is the basis for laws enacted in the District of Columbia and 10 states, including Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota. HB 127 is consistent with these laws.

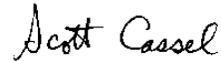
PaintCare, an industry non-profit, manages the programs established by paint stewardship laws. PSI has conducted evaluations of several PaintCare programs and found widespread satisfaction among retailers, municipal governments, and other stakeholders.

Recently, PSI also worked with a dozen paint remanufacturers in North America to establish the International Paint Recycling Association (IPRA). IPRA members produce high-quality recycled latex paint from leftover paint that would otherwise go to waste. Collectively, they have recycled more than 25 million gallons of paint, including paint collected through PaintCare programs.

PSI is a national nonprofit working to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products from design and production through end-of-life. PSI takes a unique approach to solving environmental problems by bringing key stakeholders together in well-designed dialogues to forge lasting agreements rooted in producer responsibility and sustainable materials management. Our organization has built capacity for product stewardship in the U.S. for the past 20 years, conducting both voluntary and legislative product stewardship initiatives. We work closely with 47 state environmental agency members, hundreds of local government members, and over 120 partners from businesses, universities, organizations, and international governments.

If you have any questions regarding paint stewardship policy or producer responsibility, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954 or Scott@productstewardship.us.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel
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scott@productstewardship.us

Cc: Delegate Regina Boyce