

Support for SB 730

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Lam,

Hi, I'm Mimmi, and today I write to you about coal tar sealants. My team and I support as well as advocate for Senate Bill 730., which calls for a ban on coal tar products with a 0.1% PAH limit. Why is this limit necessary? Allow me to explain. From the legislative aspect, this prevents people from using ECR and other products as a loophole, and prevents sealants from harming the environment. Also, products are currently available with PAH concentrations well below the 0.1% limit, for example, the asphalt-based average is .005%.

There are already many places where this limit is enforced. 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. ECR's PAH concentration levels are not as high as coal tar, but it's significantly higher than asphalt.

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 were supported by research done by the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A) and the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S), including Washington DC (2009), 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, 2.7 million Marylanders are protected. **Currently, 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 under a coal tar ban. Thank you for your time!