

Support for HB 553
Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Delegate Stewart:

My name is Pavin, and I support the House Bill 553.

These are the ways that coal tar can travel through our environment. Adhesion is when a car tire takes some substance on their tire and the coal tar falls off somewhere else. Tracking is when someone steps in a substance, and walks into a building still having the coal tar on his/her shoes, and it falls off there. Run-off is when rainfall takes some loose particles of a substance and brings it to the nearest water. The run-off could take some loose coal tar particles and pollute a river with it.

Houses adjacent to coal tar sealed parking lots have PAH concentrations 25 times higher than houses adjacent asphalt sealed parking lots. When children crawl on the floor and put their fingers in their mouth, they have a higher chance of being affected with PAH's. Children are the most vulnerable to being infected by PAHs. Household dust with PAH's leaves an elevated cancer risk for children.

The International Agency for research on cancer and the World Health Organization consider PAH's as a group 1 carcinogen, which means it is carcinogenic to humans. The National Toxicology Program classifies it as a "Known to cause cancer." The Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as a Group A carcinogen. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classify PAH's as an Occupational Carcinogen. All these groups know about the harm that PAHs cause to the environment and us.

Key health agencies have found that exposure to PAHs increases the chances of skin, lung, bladder, kidney, and stomach cancer in both humans and animals. For these reasons and more, the state of Maryland must ban coal tar sealants.

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