

**Support for HB 553**  
**Environment and Transportation Committee**

Dear Delegate Stewart,

PAHs and Coal Tar are very dangerous to the environment and our health. Coal Tar Sealants are used to extend the life of asphalt and provide a clean and aesthetic look for driveways. However, they contain a very harmful chemical called PAHs. PAHs can cause rashes, skin irritations, cancers, mutations, birth defects, and death. They are also very dangerous to animals and aquatic invertebrates. PAHs can cause cancer when an oxygen atom is added between the carbon atoms of a PAH. This creates an Ether. Ethers are highly unstable, bind naturally with DNA, and damage the DNA which causes cancer. Coal Tar is usually applied in the sunlight so the product can dry faster. However, this makes it many times more toxic. The combination of PAHs and sunlight significantly raises anyone's chance of getting harmed by PAHs.

By setting a 0.1% PAH ban in Maryland, we will be able to make the state a much healthier and safer state while preventing families of devastating health concerns just because of their driveway sealants.

Signed,  
Sophia Vecerek  
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