

Coal Tar FREE AMERICA

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 553

February 20, 2020

Maryland Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Delegates:

Thank you for taking up this life-saving legislation to restrict the use of coal tar and high PAH pavement sealers in the State of Maryland.

My name is Tom Ennis and I helped Austin, TX pass, defend and implement the nation's first coal tar sealer ban. I have supported many others across the US since then and **I support this bill as well.**

This is **a bill that is ripe for passage.**

The SCIENCE is clear. Over 26 research institutions have found that coal tar sealers are a danger to humans and the environment.¹ That's why the AMA supports the elimination of this product.²

It is also why Morgan State University found that Chesapeake Bay oysters are affected by the chemicals from this product and said,

This study's results provide evidence that PAHs entering an aquatic ecosystem from runoff from road surfaces have the potential to inhibit oyster reproduction by negatively impacting three critical processes in the early life cycle of the Eastern oyster.³

The SUPPORT is clear. Local government restrictions on this product apply to more than 40% of Maryland's population. It is time to make that 100%. A map showing these bans is at the footnoted link.⁴

The SUPPLY is ready. Non-toxic sealers are numerous and similar in quality and price.⁵

In 2007 Home Depot and Lowes stopped selling coal tar products because of their liability.⁶ I hope that Maryland will heed the advice of a Councilmember from Montgomery County:

"If coal tar sealers are not good enough for the shelves of Home Depot and Lowes, then it isn't good enough for the paved surfaces of our community."

If I can answer any of your questions, please don't hesitate to reach me at coaltarfreeamerica@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Ennis, PE, LEED AP

¹ <https://www.scribd.com/doc/282979737/Hyperlinked-Coal-Tar-Sealer-Research-2015>

² <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-urges-legislation-ban-dangerous-coal-tar-sealcoats>

³ <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/24488>

⁴ <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=5b2684d1744b4b73b9beb0e4b899b2d2>

⁵ <https://coaltarfreeusa.com/p/>

⁶ <https://coaltarfreeusa.com/2017/02/top-5-business-reasons-to-stop-the-use-of-coal-tar-sealers/>

Dedicated to researching, educating, and advocating

for the ban and elimination of toxic coal tar sealants from our parking lots, homes, and environment.