

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition for House Bill 890 (Maryland Paint Stewardship Program)

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 890 (Maryland Paint Stewardship Program).

This bill requires architectural paint producers to create and submit a plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Producers must pay a plan review fee to MDE. Producers are also required to add an extra charge for paint sold to retailers, distributors, and consumers to pay for a new paint stewardship assessment.

Increasing costs for producers and purchasers of paint will lead to an increased cost of new housing. Builders and remodelers use architectural coatings in most of their construction and home improvement projects and anticipate that the requirements of this legislation would increase the cost of purchasing these materials.

Furthermore, the Paint Stewardship Program could be unnecessary. There are recycling programs already in place throughout Maryland that can accept unused paints. The website <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/> allows consumers and contractors to find paint recycling locals by zip code.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members