



TESTIMONY FOR SB0143 Maryland Paint Stewardship

Bill Sponsor: Senator West

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0143 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

There are so many ways in which we, as Marylanders and stewards of our environment, need to change our behavior. Changing behavior is really hard for most people, so the easier we make it, the faster we can recycle and reuse vs throwing everything in a landfill. People don't know what to do with used paint. We all have it moldering in our garages or in a closet, or we've put it out with the trash.

This bill would allow for the creation of a Paint Stewardship Program. The program would operate WITHOUT STATE FUNDS, and would be self-sufficient and sustainable. It would provide businesses and households more locations to drop off used paint for recycle and would provide direct large-volume pickup services for amounts more than 100 gallons.

It would also reduce the burden currently borne by municipalities who have to deal with the leftover paint and would provide the funds to oversee the collection, transport and processing of returned paint. All for a small surcharge on the purchase of paint.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.