



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony in SUPPORT of – SB143, *Maryland Paint Stewardship*

Hearing Date: Feb 8, 2022

Bill Sponsor: Senator West

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Submitting: Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) -- a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#), and the [Howard County Climate Collaboration](#) – strongly supports SB143 - Maryland Paint Stewardship.

HoCo Climate Action works with several organizations in Howard County in advocating for reducing waste. The Maryland Paint Stewardship Program works on the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR), in which producers take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. Under this program, manufacturers selling paint in Maryland would have to operate a management system for collection, re-use, recycling, and proper disposal of leftover paint. The Paint Stewardship Program is financed by an assessment added to the price per container, depending on its size. It would save local governments the costs of paint disposal and their own paint recycling programs, while offering increased convenience for residents and public oversight.

A paint stewardship program is already operating in Howard County but the Maryland Paint Stewardship program will increase the collection, reuse, and recycling of leftover paint. Even though Howard County offer paint collection to their residents, the frequency and convenience of the drop-off location is quite limited. The program operates weekly only on Saturdays, eight months out of the year and monthly, four months of the year. The only drop-off site is the Alpha Ridge landfill which is not centrally located in the county and not convenient for residents in the western, eastern and southern parts of the county. Residents could travel up to **34 miles round trip** to drop off paint at the Alpha Ridge landfill and not every county in Maryland even offers a recycling option.

Under the Paint Stewardship program, drop-off sites would be conveniently located at retailers where paint is sold and at special events. Pick-up service would be available for large quantities. All counties would realize an increase in paint reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste. The Paint Stewardship Program could save many counties the costs for paint disposal services that they are currently financing and all counties would save the costs of landfilling or incinerating paint that is disposed of in the trash. According to Howard County's recycling

coordinator, \$31,000 was spent on their paint recycling program in 2020. Jobs in the Maryland recycling industry would be created to perform the collection, transit, and processing of the paint. Paint manufacturers and retailers support this program: when a store becomes a paint drop-off location, it is offering a community service and benefits from higher foot traffic when people drop off their unused paint. In sum, the Paint Stewardship Program is a win for the environment, for the economy, and for local government in increasing collection, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of architectural paint.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

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Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee, Columbia MD

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We encourage a Favorable With Amendments report for this essential legislation.

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