



SB143 – Maryland Paint Stewardship

Testimony before

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 8, 2022

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, Sponsor West, and members of the committee,

My name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB143**, Maryland Paint Stewardship.

Paint is the most collected material in hazardous waste collection programs, over 750 million gallons. The estimated cost to manage left over paint is \$8 per gallon. Maryland's less populated counties spend well over \$100,000 recycling paint. Five counties have no program and used paint goes into the trash! Haphazard solutions should not be a part of Maryland's management plan. It is time to establish a systemic, proven method for leftover paint.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have adopted statewide Paint Stewardship programs since their conception in 2002. The programs are managed by paint manufacturers or nonprofit organizations that represent them, to take responsibility for collecting, reusing, recycling and disposal of leftover paint. Collectively, 66% of leftover latex paint is recycled, 23% is used as additives, and 5% is donated to nonprofits. A fee is collected at point of sale.

Paint Stewardship is a 21st Century solution bringing together industry, governments, and citizens to rectify a costly hazardous waste problem and to protect the environment. We commend Sen. West and the Committee for returning this previously addressed bill for consideration.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Barbara Matheson
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