



**Committee: Environment & Transportation**  
**Testimony on: HB0018 - Maryland Paint Stewardship**  
**Organization: Women Indivisible Strong Effective (WISE)**  
**Submitting: Monica O'Connor, Legislative Liaison**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: January 26, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0018. WISE is an all-volunteer women-led group of advocates formed in Anne Arundel County, and has over 600 members. WISE urges you to vote favorably on HB0018.

This bill operates on the sound principle that producers of products such as household hazardous waste, should take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. HB0018 requires a producer of architectural paint sold at a retail store in Maryland to submit, by January 1, 2023, a plan for the establishment of a Paint Stewardship Program to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); implement the program within six months after approval; and submit annual reports to MDE. The bill establishes a uniform paint stewardship assessment to cover program costs and a prohibition on the sale of architectural paint unless the producer or its representative is implementing an approved paint stewardship program.

It is difficult to recycle paint in most of Maryland and access to recycling sites vary statewide - this is despite the fact that at least 10% of purchased paint goes unused and ends up in municipal landfills paid for by local governments and taxpayers. 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 for large quantities would also be arranged.

The Program will save money for local governments, foster reuse of paint products, and reduce a waste management challenge. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.