

Support for HB 0133
Environment and Transport Committee

Dear Delegates,

I am in support of HB 0133 because of the health and safety of my community and my environment. Coal tar sealants and especially PAHs in them, cause much harm to the environment. They destroy bottom feeders and cause tumors in multiple fish species. It is our duty to protect the Chesapeake Bay and without important animals, the ecosystem could fail. With a quick google search, you will find how harmful PAHs in coal tar sealants are. Bill Clutter, a private investigator, wrote an entire book about investigating the secrets of coal tar that big business tries to cover up. In the book, he discusses how a few kids in Illinois died because their exposure to coal tar caused neuroblastoma. Neuroblastoma is cancer that is found in certain nerve tissue. Also, high-PAH coal tar sealants are linked to lung, stomach, skin, kidney, and bladder cancer. Peter Van Metre and Barbara Mahler, researchers for the USGS, completed multiple studies on the harms and effects of coal tar sealants. They concluded that the dust of driveways can spread into runoff, escape into the air, and even track into houses. If this pollution gets too far out of hand, clean up costs hundreds of millions of dollars. This letter is only touching the surface of the dangers of coal tar sealants. If you are still unclear, please research because there are numerous studies on the harms of high-PAH coal tar sealants. This bill is extremely important and means a lot to me, my team, and my school. During elementary school and middle school we have missed countless lunches and recesses to research and to prepare. My team is passionate and we would be ecstatic to see this bill become a law this year. Back in fifth grade, we watched our state official unanimously vote for this bill and to see our state representatives possibly do it again four years later would absolutely be amazing.

Signed,

Melanie Ritter

Ellicott City, MD