

February 1, 2022

Delegate Kumar Barve - Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Taylor House Office Bldg., Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 133 – Coal Tar Sealant Products – Prohibitions
(Safer Sealant Act of 2022)
Oppose

Dear Chairman Barve,

Proponents of HB 133 have yet to present a single piece of evidence that any person, plant, animal, or fish has ever been negatively affected by being exposed to coal tar pavement sealer in the State of Maryland. The public is unaware that a problem even exists as coal tar pavement sealer had been applied for over 50 years without a single lawsuit filed for health reasons. Unlike PAHs, the unnecessary generation of Green House Gases (GHG) into the atmosphere is something the Delegates and public do care about.

With that in mind, consider what is involved in milling off the top 2 inches of an asphalt parking lot and repaving it with 2 new inches of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) on a 30,000 square yard (270,000SF) Walmart or Home Depot parking lot, as an example. The GHG generated in a repaving project compared to sealcoating the same parking lot is spelled out below.

Milling and Paving Equipment: 4 - Bobcat skid steers, 1 - Wirtgen asphalt milling machine, 1 Sweeper truck, 1 – 1,000 gallon asphalt tack coating truck, 2 paving machines, 3 asphalt rollers, and 12 triple axel dump trucks (70,000GVW)

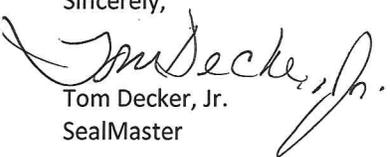
Over 5 days, the 12 dump trucks will operate 12 hours per day to haul out the 3,375 tons of asphalt removed by the milling machine, then haul in all of the new asphalt. All the other equipment listed would be used heavily for most of every day as well. This project would require 3,375 tons of hot mix asphalt, plus all the trucking required to bring the asphalt and aggregate to the asphalt plant to be heated and mixed. The Green House Gases generated by this paving job is huge compared to that of a sealcoating operation.

Sealcoating Equipment: 1 each 1,000 gallon truck mounted (26,000GVW) sealcoating spray tank with a 13 HP Honda engine to power the spray unit, 3 each Billy Goat power blowers with 13 HP Honda engines to blow the off the parking lot before sealing.

Over 5 days, the sealcoating crew would be applying ambient temperature coal tar pavement sealer at roughly 900 gallons spray applied per day. The Green House Gases generated by this operation are barely existent compared to the milling and repaving operation outlined above. A parking lot can be sealcoated 7 times over 25 years before reaching the cost of a single repaving project.

Passing HB 133 will significantly reduce the amount of sealcoating in Maryland and increase the volume of repaving projects. HB 133 will add huge amounts of GHG into the atmosphere in the State. **Vote No on HB 133** for the sake of our environment.

Sincerely,


Tom Decker, Jr.
SealMaster

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