



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for HB 133 Environment – Coal Tar Sealant Products - Prohibitions (Safer Sealant Act of 2022)

Dear Delegate Barve:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, I am writing to offer support for HB 133, Environment - Driveway Sealers - Prohibitions (Safer Sealant Act of 2022). As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports your efforts to ensure a resilient, reliable, and clean drinking water supply for the region, which aligns with our legislative priorities.

The metropolitan Washington region has been a national leader on water quality issues, both locally and within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Anacostia watershed jurisdictions-- Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Anne Arundel County, as well as the District of Columbia-- established local prohibitions on coal tar sealants as early as 2009. In addition, legislation in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County set polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) limits at 0.1%. We are pleased that this bill also sets the same limit on PAHs and expands Montgomery County's coal tar sealant prohibition across Maryland. The passage of this bill will help improve water quality statewide and directly assist efforts to protect drinking source water.

Please contact Steve Bieber, COG's Water Resources Program Director (202) 962-3219, or sbieber@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy B. Jackson".

Amy Jackson
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee