

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

January 24th, 2022

Delegate and Committee Chair Paul Pinsky
Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: SENATE BILL 143/HOUSE BILL 018 Maryland Paint Stewardship

Dear Senator Paul Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

We are writing on behalf of the Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability in **support** of Senate Bill 143/House Bill 018 - Maryland Paint Stewardship, which would establish a Paint Stewardship Program program in the State of Maryland.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

Paint stewardship, recovery and recycling programs help to keep hazardous materials contained in paint products - including volatile organic compounds and heavy metals - out of municipal waste streams and waterways, protecting public health and the natural environment. The bill provides a model for extended producer responsibility across the State, which holds the prospect of waste reduction, the recirculation of valuable materials into the regional economy and untapped economic benefits.

Further, SB143/HB018 supports waste reduction goals outlined in Baltimore City's 2019 Sustainability Plan including Strategy 3, Action 4 of the **Waste and Recycling Chapter**: Pursue legislation and policy changes to reduce the waste stream. Investigate changes to regulations to eliminate waste and maximize reuse of materials; Establish businesses that reuse products and marketplaces for selling them.

This bill is important for equity; for example, it will lead to a reduction of hazardous materials going to incinerators and landfills, which are disproportionately located in communities of color.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 143/House Bill 018.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins and Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Regina Boyce