

7 February 2022

Chairman Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support with recommendations for House Bill 0018  
Maryland Paint Stewardship

Dear Chairman Barve:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for House Bill 0018. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. As architects, we fully support sustainable strategies in building design and construction as we collectively work to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability for the citizens of Maryland.

Nationwide, 10% of household latex and oil-based paint goes unused – about 80 million gallons per year. However, more than 80% of leftover paint can be recycled. Unfortunately, opportunities to recycle paint are often infrequent and inconvenient, located at the few facilities that accept household hazardous waste on 'round-up' days, financed by local government. The paint that isn't captured on these days typically ends up in the trash, making its way to the landfill or incinerator. This used to be the case with construction waste too, but now, construction projects pursuing sustainable pathways are recycling more than 75% of construction waste.

In Maryland, paint recycling is not universally available or convenient. While oil-based paint collection is offered in 18 of the 23 counties, latex paint collection is only offered in 11 counties, and 5 counties offer no paint recycling at all. With local governments providing these hazardous waste collection programs AND paying for the disposal of leftover paint thrown in the trash, post-consumer paint waste has become a costly problem.

The Maryland Paint Stewardship program (HB 0018) will provide more convenient collection options for leftover paint; increase recycling, reuse, and donation; create new jobs in paint recycling; and make architectural paint manufacturers responsible for management, shifting costs away from local government. If HB0018/the PaintCare bill becomes law, Maryland would join Oregon, California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Minnesota, Maine, Colorado, Washington, New York and the District of Columbia, all of which have enacted legislation for the proper and effective management of post-consumer paint. These programs are managed by a non-profit entity representing manufacturers and financed by an assessment fee on each can of paint sold. The budget and operation details, including environmentally responsible paint management, are part of a Plan that the state must approve, with public oversight through audits and annual reporting to the Department of the Environment.

Ultimately, we need to minimize the amount of post-consumer paint waste generated by educating consumers on buying the right amount of paint and taking advantage of reuse opportunities that can help reduce the generation of leftover paint in the first place. However, we believe the priority should be providing citizens with convenient locations to recycle unwanted paint. We encourage you to make a commitment to both the natural and built environment and for the citizens of Maryland by supporting this bill. AIA Maryland is glad to support this bill and we ask for your vote.

Let's make Maryland the next state to adopt a Paint Stewardship program that is a win for the environment, homeowners, local governments, businesses, and the economy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EN", is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Elizabeth Nook, AIA  
President