



February 5, 2024

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Re: SB325 Maryland Paint Stewardship

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's"), to ensure that the use of virgin materials is minimized, materials otherwise destined for disposal are reused or recycled and strong demand exists for buying products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Our members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

The Maryland Recycling Network supports SB325, the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program. This bill will substantially increase paint recycling in Maryland and reduce its financial burden on local government. Paint is a fairly ubiquitous product whose recycling is a mystery to most consumers. Yet, ten states and the District of Columbia have successfully established paint recovery and recycling through a stewardship law. The use of a visible recycling fee, the reality that paint is usually used shortly after it is purchased and the ability to return the unused portion for recycling are among the reasons for this success. Marylanders will benefit by learning from those successes.

Enacting this legislation has been a priority for several years. Last year, both houses agreed on final language for SB260 and its House counterpart HB255. Unfortunately, the legislation died at the last minute as legislative time expired. Legislation introduced this year, SB325 and HB1, contain the final language agreed to by both houses. We urge speedy adoption of this bill. This legislation is an environmental win for Maryland.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Houstle".

Peter Houstle
Executive Director

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