



## **SB325 – Maryland Paint Stewardship**

**Testimony before**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**February 6, 2024**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of SB325, which creates a new program to require paint manufacturers to take responsibility for the waste issues associated with their products. We appreciate the leadership of Senators Brooks and West for sponsoring this important legislation.

Ten states and the District of Columbia now have some form of paint stewardship program in place. These programs have collected more than 51 million gallons of paint, recycled over 72% of all latex paint collected, saved governments and taxpayers nearly \$300 million, and established more than 2,000 collection sites, over 70% of which are at voluntary retail locations.

Paint stewardship programs like these incentivize the design of more sustainable products and build supply chains for those made with recycled materials- the building blocks of an emerging circular economy that protects our environment and builds a better future.

This bill requires producers of retail-sold architectural paint to submit a paint stewardship program plan by July 1, 2025, and for this plan to begin implementation in 2026. The bill makes it easier for citizens to recycle, reduces City and County landfilling and hazardous waste collection, and helps the environment. The members of Indivisible Howard County support such common sense measures to reduce waste and clean up our environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.**

Crystal Konny  
11605 Dark Fire Way  
Columbia, MD 21044