



Benjamin Moore®

February 5, 2024

Benjamin Moore & Co.
101 Paragon Drive
Montvale, NJ 07645

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

As the leader in the paint industry, we ask for your support for Senate Bill 325 **Maryland Paint Stewardship**. Please vote "YES" on Paint Stewardship.

Benjamin Moore & Co. has been proudly producing and selling paint for over 140 years and have many independent retailers throughout Maryland. My company and my colleagues in the paint industry fully support this bill.

The Paint Stewardship bill will make it easy for all Maryland residents to empty their garages and basements of leftover household paint **and** keep it out of the landfill! If possible, the leftover paint is recycled and turned back into paint.

In other states across the country, this program has collected over 70 million gallons of paint – almost all of the leftover paint has been recycled or burned for energy recovery. Successful programs already exist in California, Oregon, Minnesota, Colorado, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Washington, DC, and Washington state.

The key to Paint stewardship is to provide convenient collection facilities for the public and to relieve local governments from this responsibility. Convenient locations are critical in Maryland. Those few counties that accept latex paint do so at a great cost. This program could potentially save Maryland counties over \$224,000 annually. These services are financed by a modest assessment on the sale of new paint, collected by the stewardship organization. Oversight of the program is conducted by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the agency is reimbursed for its costs – so there is no cost to the state!

The paint stewardship program – SB 325 – is a WIN/WIN for Maryland. I urge you to help make these services available in our state.

If I can answer any questions for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best regards,

Kimberly Ezdebski

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