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March 20, 2024

Support: SB 325 - Maryland Paint Stewardship

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 325 - Maryland Paint Stewardship and we thank Sen. Brooks for his leadership on this issue.

Despite the fact that most architectural paints are readily recyclable, most Maryland consumers do not have access to convenient, consistent collection programs for their unused paint. Without a sustainable, accessible system in place for collection, unused paint becomes just another hazardous household waste material in our landfills and incinerators with the potential to contaminate our air and water.

SB 325 offers a sustainable and demonstrated alternative. This product stewardship program will take the guesswork out of paint disposal for Maryland consumers and establish a system for paint retailers to share in the responsibility of collecting and recycling excess paint.

Already established in numerous other states in this country and, also successfully operating across Canada, paint recycling prevents harmful substances from entering our environment. Just one example of such a program in another state, Connecticut enacted a paint stewardship bill in 2011. Since that time, the program has collected over 1 million gallons of unwanted paint and in 2022 more than 80% of collected paints were successfully recycled.

Recycling paint also saves energy. Manufacturing paint from recovered material can prevent up to four times the greenhouse gas emissions that producing paint from virgin materials causes¹. Additionally, a system for paint collection and recycling keeps this hazardous, but otherwise reusable material out of landfills, reducing the cost burden to local governments and extending landfill capacity.

This esteemed committee, as well as the full Senate body, passed this legislation last year. We urge you to do so again. SB 325 represents smart resource use that will benefit Maryland's environment. **Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.**

¹Israel Dunmade , "Recycle or Dispose Off? Lifecycle Environmental Sustainability Assessment of Paint Recycling Process", Resources and Environment, Vol. 2 No. 6, 2012, pp. 291-296. doi: 10.5923/j.re.20120206.07.
[<http://article.sapub.org/10.5923.j.re.20120206.07.html#Ref>]