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February 5, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB 325, An act concerning Maryland Paint Stewardship

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) **strongly supports SB 325**, which would establish a producer-run paint stewardship program in Maryland.

Maryland residents generate more than 1.3 million gallons of leftover paint each year. Most of this paint is disposed in the trash or down household and storm drains because municipalities cannot afford to collect and manage all of it. Enacting SB 325 would:

- Relieve a significant financial burden on municipalities;
- Establish new convenient locations for residents to drop off their paint year-round;
- Increase paint reuse and recycling;
- Protect Maryland’s water bodies and other natural resources; and
- Support recycling sector jobs.

The coatings industry was the first – and remains one of the few – industry sectors to work collaboratively with others to take responsibility for safely recovering the products they put on the market. Nearly 20 years ago, PSI mediated discussions that led to an agreement on a model paint stewardship bill, which is the basis for laws enacted in the District of Columbia and 11 states, including Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, and Minnesota. SB 325 is consistent with these laws. It is also consistent with the basic principles of extended producer responsibility included in HB 1 (the cross-filed paint EPR bill for SB 325).

PaintCare, an industry non-profit, manages the programs established by paint stewardship laws. PSI has conducted evaluations of several PaintCare programs and found widespread satisfaction among retailers, municipal governments, and other stakeholders.

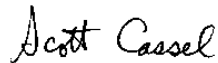
In 2019, PSI worked with a dozen recycled paint remanufacturers in North America to establish the International Paint Recycling Association (IPRA). IPRA members produce high-quality recycled latex paint from leftover paint that would otherwise go to waste. Collectively, they have recycled more than 25 million gallons of paint collected through PaintCare programs like the one that SB 325 would establish.

PSI is a national nonprofit working to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products from design and production through end-of-life. PSI takes a unique approach to solving environmental problems by bringing key stakeholders together in well-designed dialogues to forge lasting agreements rooted in producer responsibility and sustainable materials management. Our organization has built capacity for product stewardship in the U.S. for the past 20 years, conducting both voluntary and legislative product stewardship initiatives. We work closely with 47 state environmental agency members, hundreds of local government members, and over 120 partners from businesses, universities, organizations, and international governments.

We urge you to support the important legislation for the financial and environmental health of Maryland's communities and economy.

If you have any questions regarding paint stewardship policy or producer responsibility, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954 or scott@productstewardship.us.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer / Founder