

SB 730 – Sale and Application of Coal Tar And Coal Tar Pavement Products – Prohibition

OPPOSE

Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

Once again, we are here in front of the Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee attempting to prevent the banning of coal tar pavement sealer from being applied to asphalt driveways and parking lots Statewide. What has changed since HB-411 was withdrawn last February? There still isn't compelling evidence that coal tar pavement sealants are harmful to humans or the environment. Like last year, this bill will put me out of business based on junk science. I implore you as a small businessperson to carefully study this issue before casually destroying the livelihood of people like me.

To date, not a single case of a person, fish, animal, or plant has been proven to have been harmed in any way by the exposure to coal tar pavement sealer in the entire country, much less the state of Maryland. Coal tar pavement sealer has been and continues to be applied to asphalt driveways and parking lots throughout the country for the last 60 years without a single lawsuit being filed by a person claiming that they have become afflicted with cancer due to their exposure to coal tar sealer. Asbestos was banned for good reason, yet no one can demonstrate that coal tar pavement sealer needs to be banned.

Moreover, eliminating the most effective product for protecting and extending the useful life of asphalt pavements saves homeowners hundreds, and commercial property owners thousands of dollars, in additional paving expenses that can be delayed for many years with a regularly scheduled sealcoating program.

I begged that you study the damage to the environment and the expense to the property owners that occurs when contractors have to mill off the top 2 inches of asphalt, dispose of the millings, and repave with new asphalt every 10 to 15 years. A Statewide sealcoating program would save our State untold millions of dollars in paving that would not have to be done nearly as often, if for instance all state and public school parking lots were sealcoated every 4 to 5 years.

No one in Maryland or anywhere else in the United States has produced anyone or anything harmed by exposure to coal tar pavement sealer. Therefore, I strongly urge this committee to review the evidence before putting me and the industry out-of-business.

Sincerely,
Tom Decker, Jr.
President

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Metro Washington D.C.
7820 Penn Western Court
Unit D
Upper Marlboro, MD
P: (301) 420-7504
F: (301) 420-7655

Wilmington, DE
11 James Court
Wilmington, DE 19801
P: (302) 654-4811
F: (302) 654-4866

Richmond, VA
8368 Old Richfood Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
P: (804) 569-0490
F: (804) 569-0492

Manassas, VA
8756 Virginia Meadows Drive
Manassas, VA 20109
P: (703) 257-9211
F: (703) 257-1911

Norfolk, VA
5552 E. Virginia Beach Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23502
P: (757) 623-2880
F: (757) 623-2886