



imageasphalt.com

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Maryland State Senate  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis Md 21401

Good afternoon Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as an industry contractor expert for the HB77 Safer Sealant Act of 2021.

I am President of Image Asphalt Maintenance Inc. In 1990, as a 20-year-old College Park student, I started sealing driveways and continued to maintain pavement ever since. I've had no adverse health effects from applying sealer, nor has any of the hundreds of employees who have worked for me. In fact, I have never heard of any health-related issues from applying pavement sealer. Not from industry publications, OSHA bulletins, the State of Maryland, or any other source. Coal tar sealer is so easy to work with that it doesn't even harm vegetation.

Liquid Asphalt Sealer is a common and successful product to prevent the deterioration of asphalt pavement, reduce expense and add curb appeal to driveways and parking lots. Throughout the years I have tried every kind of sealer on the market and have determined (as has the entire industry) that coal tar-based sealers are far superior to any sealer available today.

At Image Asphalt, we will not sell inferior sealers because of their poor value and inability to warranty the product. If coal tar sealers are banned the process of maintaining your pavement will be less effective, more expensive, and more important, would result in a much larger carbon footprint. It's worth considering that using an inferior sealer that is half as effective, would result in twice as much application and twice the CO2 emissions compared to using coal tar.

Without proper and effective sealing, the pavement will need to be replaced more often, which involves many dump trucks, sweeper trucks, milling machines, pavers, rollers, skid steers not to mention the equipment required to simply make the asphalt. All of this equipment will be spewing CO2 emissions and harming the environment. Alternatively, sealing operations emissions come from only a seal coat truck, and a blower, which might be 10% of the emissions of a paving operation.

Most important, please also consider that The Safer Sealant Act would put many of my employees out-of-

work. I have employees that have been with me 15-20 years, who have perfected their position in the pavement maintenance trade and would have nowhere else to go.

Before voting on the Safer Sealant Act please consider that:

- Coal tar-based sealers are not dangerous to personal or environmental health
- Without coal tar sealers pavement maintenance will require a dramatic increase in CO2 emissions
- Banning coal tar sealers will cost many industry professionals their jobs

Hoping the above is satisfactory we remain,

Very Truly Yours,

**Kevin Miller, President**  
**Image Asphalt Maintenance Inc.**