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Vice Chair
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Joint Audit Committee
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB372: Coal Tar Sealant Ban

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 | 1:00 pm

Coal tar sealants are used to protect and brighten driveways, parking lots, and even playgrounds. Unfortunately, this material is incredibly toxic—containing extremely high levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). *Six years ago*, the American Medical Association [advocated for a nationwide ban](#) on coal tar.

We track coal tar from our driveways into our homes on the bottom of our shoes, our dog's paws, etc. These PAHs can cause [many health problems](#), including eye and skin irritation, nausea, and diarrhea. [Long-term exposure](#) can lead to asthma-like symptoms, decreased immune function, cataracts, organ damage, or cancer.

Marine life is also [damaged by dangerous PAHs](#) that seep into our waterways. The chemicals hinder growth in salamanders; impair development in frogs; cause liver damage in fish; and decrease the population of crabs, clams, and oysters.

[SB372](#) would simply ban the use of coal tar sealants.

Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Home Depot, and many other stores stopped selling coal tar due to liability concerns. [Anne Arundel](#), [Howard](#), [Montgomery](#), and [Prince George's](#) Counties have already banned this toxic product. There are many affordable alternatives. It's time to expand the ban of coal tar sealants statewide to protect our ecosystems and all Marylanders.

I urge a favorable report on SB372.