

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Members, Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Regina T. Boyce

FROM: Thomas Vedrody, Owner  
Annie's Hardware, LLC

RE: **SUPPORT - HOUSE BILL 255 – Maryland Paint Stewardship**

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Annie's Hardware supports Bill HB 255, the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program.

Annie's is a hardware store located in Northeast DC, fewer than two miles from the Maryland border. Because of our location and the nature of the area, we both employ and serve Maryland residents, and I, the owner, am a Maryland resident myself. As a conscientious member of the community trying to do our part to reduce landfill waste and enable our customers to do the same, we currently offer PaintCare recycling at our store, and it is a well-used and well-loved program. It only makes sense to offer it directly to Maryland residents as well.

HB 255 will enable the paint industry to develop and implement a post-consumer paint management system for the reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of paint in Maryland. Annie's appreciates your support of this important legislation and we look forward to working with PaintCare, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and local Household Hazardous Waste programs to implement the program upon successful passage of this bill.

HB 255 will provide a convenient network of collection centers for Maryland residents and divert thousands of gallons of leftover paint from landfills at no cost to the State of Maryland. In addition, the PaintCare program operates in cooperation with existing municipal facilities and saves them money by covering the costs of transporting and processing leftover paint. PaintCare is already operating in eleven jurisdictions including Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, and the District of Columbia. HB 255 outlines the specific elements for a successful industry-run paint stewardship program in Maryland, including a sustainable funding mechanism and a fair, level playing field for both manufacturers and retailers.

Thank you for your support of this bill and we respectfully urge you to move this forward with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Thomas Vedrody  
Annie's Hardware, owner