



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0255 - Maryland Paint Stewardship
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB255. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB255.

This bill operates on the sound principle that producers of products such as household hazardous waste, should take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. HB255 requires a producer of architectural paint sold at a retail store in Maryland to submit, by January 1, 2024, a plan for the establishment of a Paint Stewardship Program to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); implement the program within six months after approval; and submit annual reports to MDE. The bill establishes a uniform paint stewardship assessment to cover program costs and a prohibition on the sale of architectural paint unless the producer or its representative is implementing an approved paint stewardship program.

According to the Product Stewardship Institute, about 10% of latex and oil-based paint is leftover or unused. Leftover paint is the costliest component of household hazardous waste management for local governments. Eighteen counties and the City of Baltimore offer some paint collection to their residents, but the frequency and convenience of drop-off locations vary. Eleven counties offer latex paint collection, 19 counties offer oil-based paint collection, and five counties – Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Somerset, and Washington – have no paint collection or recycling. Under the Paint Stewardship Program, drop-off sites would be conveniently located at retailers where paint is sold and at special events; pick-up service for large quantities would also be arranged. All counties would realize an increase in reuse and recycling of paint and a reduction in waste.

The Program will save money for local governments, foster reuse of paint products, and reduce a waste management challenge. We support HB255 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.