



HB255 – Maryland Paint Stewardship

Testimony before

House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 15, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB255**, which creates a new program to require paint manufacturers to take responsibility for the waste issues associated with their products. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Del. Boyce for sponsoring this important legislation.

At least 10 states and the District of Columbia now have some form of paint stewardship program in place. These programs have collected more than 51 million gallons of paint, recycled over 72% of all latex paint collected, saved governments and taxpayers nearly \$300 million, and established more than 2,000 collection sites, over 70% of which are at voluntary retail locations.

Paint stewardship programs like these incentivize the design of more sustainable products and build supply chains for those made with recycled materials, which are the building blocks of an emerging circular economy that protects our environment and builds a better future.

This bill requires producers of retail-sold architectural paint to submit a paint stewardship program plan by July 2024, and for this plan to begin implementation in 2025. The members of Indivisible Howard County support such common sense measures to reduce waste and clean up our environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Richard Deutschmann
9485 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, Sponsor West, and members of the committee,

My name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB143**, Maryland Paint Stewardship.

Paint is the most collected material in hazardous waste collection programs, over 750 million gallons. The estimated cost to manage left over paint is \$8 per gallon. Maryland counties spend well over \$100,000 recycling paint. Five counties have no program and used paint goes into the trash! Haphazard solutions should not be a part of Maryland's management plan. It is time to establish a systemic, proven method for leftover paint.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have adopted statewide Paint Stewardship programs (2002). The programs are managed by paint manufacturers or nonprofit organizations that represent them, to take responsibility for collecting, reusing, recycling and disposal of leftover paint. Collectively, 66% of leftover latex paint is recycled, 23% is used as additives, and 5% is donated to nonprofits. A fee is collected at point of sale.

Paint Stewardship is a 21st Century solution bringing together industry, governments, and citizens to rectify a costly hazardous waste problem and to protect the environment. We commend Sen. West and the Committee for returning this previously addressed bill for consideration.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Barbara Matheson
Columbia, MD 21044