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February 12, 2023

Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair  
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Support for HB 255, An act concerning Maryland Paint Stewardship**

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committees:

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) **strongly supports HB 255**, which would establish a producer-run paint stewardship program in Maryland.

Maryland residents generate more than 1.3 million gallons of leftover paint each year. Most of this paint is disposed in the trash or down household and storm drains because municipalities cannot afford to collect and manage all of it.

Enacting HB 255 would:

- Relieve a significant financial burden on municipalities;
- Establish new convenient locations for residents to drop off their paint year-round;
- Increase paint reuse and recycling;
- Protect Maryland’s water bodies and other natural resources; and
- Support recycling sector jobs.

The coatings industry was the first – and remains one of the few – industry sectors to work collaboratively with others to take responsibility for safely recovering the products they put on the market. Nearly 20 years ago, PSI mediated discussions that led to an agreement on a model paint stewardship bill, which is the basis for laws enacted in the District of Columbia and 10 states, including Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota. HB 255 is consistent with these laws. It is also consistent with the basic principles of extended producer responsibility included in SB 260 (the cross-filed paint EPR bill for HB 255).

PaintCare, an industry non-profit, manages the programs established by paint stewardship laws. PSI has conducted evaluations of several PaintCare programs and found widespread satisfaction among retailers, municipal governments, and other stakeholders.

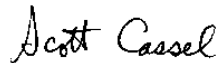
In 2019, PSI worked with a dozen recycled paint remanufacturers in North America to establish the International Paint Recycling Association (IPRA). IPRA members produce high-quality recycled latex paint from leftover paint that would otherwise go to waste. Collectively, they have recycled more than 25 million gallons of paint collected through PaintCare programs like the one that HB 255 would establish.

The Product Stewardship Institute is a policy advocate and consulting nonprofit that pioneered product stewardship in the United States along with a coalition of hundreds of state and local government officials. Since 2000, PSI has worked with numerous others to develop EPR policies for many of the 131 EPR laws enacted for 16 industry sectors.

We urge you to support the important legislation for the financial and environmental health of Maryland's communities and economy.

If you have any questions regarding paint stewardship policy or producer responsibility, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954 or [scott@productstewardship.us](mailto:scott@productstewardship.us).

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel  
Chief Executive Officer / Founder