



January 26, 2021

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees
Re: HB 127 Maryland Paint Stewardship

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

The Maryland Recycling Network supports HB 127, the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program with the following amendments to allow sufficient time for counties to include the volume of paint collected in their annual MRA report due April 1:

PART V. 9-1733 (H) BEGINNING ~~APRIL~~ MARCH 1, 2023

PART V. 9-1733 (H) (1) (III) ... THAT INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF THE VOLUME OF POSTCONSUMER PAINT COLLECTED IN THE STATE FOR EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE, SAID REPORT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EACH COUNTY WITH SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE VOLUME OF PAINT COLLECTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COUNTY'S ANNUAL MRA REPORT;

If passed this bill has the opportunity to substantially increase recycling opportunities for a fairly ubiquitous product that is often hard for consumers to know how to properly dispose of. Paint recovery has been very successful in a number of other states. The use of a visible recycling fee, the reality that paint is usually used shortly after it is purchased and the ability to return the unused portion for recycling are among the reasons for this success. Marylanders will benefit by learning from those successes.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director