



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl Kagan  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for HB 77, Environment - Driveway Sealers - Prohibitions (Safer Sealant Act of 2021)

Dear Senator Pinsky and Senator Kagan:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee, I am writing to offer support for HB 77, Environment - Driveway Sealers - Prohibitions (Safer Sealant Act of 2021). As an association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports your efforts to protect local water quality and ensure a resilient, reliable, and clean drinking water supply for the region, which aligns with our 2021 Legislative Priorities.

The metropolitan Washington region has been a leader on water quality issues, both locally and within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Anacostia watershed jurisdictions— Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and the District of Columbia—established local prohibitions on coal tar sealants as early as 2009. In addition, legislation in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County set PAH limits at 0.1%. We are pleased that this bill also sets the same limit on PAHs and expands the coal tar sealant prohibition adopted by Montgomery County to be statewide. The passage of this bill will directly assist our region's efforts to improve local water quality and protect drinking source water.

Please contact Steve Bieber, COG's Water Resources Program Director (202) 962-3219, or [sbieber@mwkog.org](mailto:sbieber@mwkog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie-Anne Sayles".

Laurie-Anne Sayles  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee  
City of Gaithersburg