

## **Save Money, Reduce Waste, and Recycle Unwanted Paint**

### **Support “An Act to Establish A Stewardship Program for Architectural Paint”**

**LD 1308 creates an industry-run program to increase access to safe paint collection, reuse and recycling, and save Mainers money. It is supported by paint manufacturers and environmental groups alike.**



#### **Paint recycling is nearly non-existent in Maine.**

- Every year Mainers discard about 300,000 gallons of leftover paint\* that often contains dangerous chemicals. This paint ends up in landfills or incinerators.
- Maine citizens currently have little or no access to recycling facilities for leftover paint.

#### **Managing paint is expensive for taxpayers and municipalities.**

- Every year, Mainers spend about \$2.4 million in local taxes and fees\* to collect used paint and send it to incinerators or landfills.
- About half of municipal household hazardous waste budgets are spent to deal with leftover paint, making it the most expensive item.

#### **Improper disposal of paint is dangerous to Maine’s people and environment.**

- Oil-based paint is highly flammable and can expose people to harmful fumes, and much older paint can contain lead, a highly poisonous metal.
- Paint is composed of resins, solvents, pigments and additives that are toxic to aquatic animals if paint ends up in surface waters.
- Maine families are exposed to chemicals called VOCs (volatile organic compounds) when leftover latex paint cans are left open to dry out at home prior to disposal.
- VOCs have short and long-term health effects.

#### **LD 1308’s Product Stewardship solution to paint recycling will reduce the burden on taxpayers, and better protect our environment.**

This paint stewardship initiative will create a convenient collection and recycling system for leftover paint generated by households and small businesses. The paint industry would collect and manage the leftover paint.

- Funds raised through paint sales would support the system, shifting costs from taxpayers to consumers, and creating incentives for a more sustainable industry.
- Municipal collection sites will collect more paint and save money.
- Paint retailers can sign up as collection sites to increase traffic to their stores.
- Maine residents and small businesses will have more convenient access to drop-off locations.
- The health of Maine people and our environment will be protected by keeping unwanted paint out of landfills, incinerators, or stockpiled in homes.

#### **Paint recycling through Product Stewardship is a proven solution that is broadly supported.**

- This legislation is modeled after successful programs in Oregon and California.
- The paint industry, municipal leaders, environmental interests, and many others support this state-wide program to efficiently and safely capture and manage this waste stream.

FMI Contact: Abby King, Natural Resources Council of Maine • 207-430-0144 • [abigail@nrcm.org](mailto:abigail@nrcm.org)

\* Calculations from the Product Stewardship Institute • [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us)