We urge a favorable report on SB 082. This bill would prohibit, on or after January 1, 2021, the sale or distribution of any paint or coating removal product that contains N-Methylpyrrolidone or methylene chloride, also known as dichloromethane. There are safe alternatives to these chemicals.

The health impacts for methylene chloride of its use in paint and coating removal products include death (due to asphyxiation), liver toxicity, kidney toxicity, reproductive toxicity, specific cognitive impacts, and cancers such as brain cancer, liver cancer, certain lung cancers, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.¹ Some of these effects result from a very short, acute exposure; others follow years of occupational exposure. For NMP, these health effects include developmental toxicity (e.g., fetal death or decreased infant birth weight), neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity, liver and kidney toxicity, and reproductive toxicity.²

The chemicals methylene chloride (DCM) and N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) have caused deaths, including three known deaths in Maryland. Despite the known health harms, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Management and Budget have repeatedly delayed efforts to address this issue, necessitating the need for the state to address this health risk.