



Dear Governor Carney and Delaware General Assembly,

We are writing to support a state-wide ban on the use of lead-based outdoor paint in Delaware.

Lead (Pb) is a neurotoxin with irreversible side effects. Exposure to lead-based paint, including chips, grit and dust, is dangerous to public health. Ingesting lead causes neurological damage, behavioral and learning disabilities among children, as well as anemia, high blood pressure, kidney damage and reproductive effects (including miscarriage, stillbirths and premature births) among adults. There are no safe levels of exposure to lead and there is no way to reverse the effects caused by lead exposure.

While there is a prohibition on lead-based indoor paint used in residential properties and public buildings, which was established in 1978 by the United States' Consumer Product Safety Commission (16 CFR 1303), there is no current prohibition on using lead based paint in commercial and industrial applications outdoors. Title IV of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as well as other authorities in the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, directs EPA to regulate lead-based paint hazards. However, EPA oversight is limited to residential and child-occupied facilities.

Routine maintenance of outdoor commercial and industrial structures, including water towers, stadiums, utility poles, bridges, fire hydrants, and playground equipment, as well as parking lots, curbs and roadways that continue to be painted with lead-based paint provide a protracted exposure pathway for future generations. The natural weathering

of surfaces and structures painted with lead-based paints causes the dissemination of lead-paint chips, grit and dust, creating a public health risk.

While some state agencies, including DeIDOT, have taken steps to halt the use of lead-based paints and coatings, the abundance of local government-owned and privately-owned outdoor structures and painted paved surfaces has created an opportunity for the continued use of lead-based paints in Delaware.

Delaware's communities and families should be assured that lead-based paints are no longer applied in our state. We therefore ask for your support of a state-wide ban on the use of lead in outdoor paints and coatings.

Sincerely,

Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH, NPMc, Executive Director

Delaware Nature Society
Anne Harper, Acting Executive Director

Delaware Nurses Association
Sarah Carmody, Executive Director

Delaware PTA
Julie Alvarez, State President

Green Delaware
Alan Muller, Executive Director

League of Women Voters of Delaware
Joann Hasse, President LWV of Delaware

NAACP Delaware State Conference of Branches
La Vaida Owens-White, RN, Health Committee Chair

The Arc of Delaware
Terry Olson, Executive Director