

February 21, 1973

COATINGS
ASSOCIATION

TO: All NPCA Members
NPCA Legislative Committee

Subject: Lead Based Paint Legislation - H.R. 3743, 93rd Congress.

Encl: NPCA Position Paper



BACKGROUND

1. The latest issue of COATINGS, dated February 12, 1973, gives a brief status report and synopsis of the several "lead-based paint" Bills, which have been introduced so far in the 93rd Congress. All the Bills mentioned had one thing in common - a .06% lead-content standard.
2. Shortly after that article had gone to the printer, another Bill, also containing amendments to the Lead Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act was introduced, by number H.R. 3743. We are most pleased to report that it contains all three of the provisions we have been trying to get for the last few years. In brief summary these are:
 - a. A reduction of the present 1% lead-content standard to .5%. This is consistent with the latest FDA regulation.
 - b. A requirement for research by HEW on multiple layers of dried paint film, containing the various lead compounds commonly used, in order to ascertain the safe level of lead in residential paints and a report of the results to Congress within 8 months.
 - c. A full Federal preemption clause.

(There is precedent for these 3 provisions as the .5% standard was approved in the 92nd Congress by the full House Banking and Currency Committee in the Omnibus Housing Bill (H.R. 16704) and is consistent with the latest FDA regulation. The research provision was included in S. 3080 which passed the Senate in the 92nd Congress by a vote of 82-0. The federal preemption clause was also approved by the House Banking and Currency Committee in H.R. 16704. Unfortunately H.R. 16704 did not reach the House floor for a vote.)

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3. H.R. 3743 was introduced by Congressman Lawrence G. Williams, a Republican representing the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Congressman Williams deserves the appreciation of our industry and all the support we can generate for him.

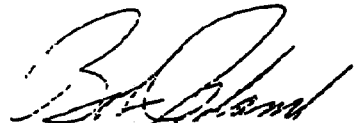
ACTION NEEDED

Please communicate with your Congressmen now and ask them to support the Williams Bill, H.R. 3743. Ask not only for their support but also urge them to join as a co-sponsor of the Bill. Joining as a co-sponsor is a concrete way of showing support and an impressive list of cosponsors should increase the chance of success. By all means, ask for a report back from your Congressmen.

Attached for background, is a "position paper" giving most of the arguments in support of our position. It is suggested that the thoughts and ideas in this paper be freely utilized in your own words, along with any additional information relating to your particular organization. The precedent for the provisions of H.R. 3743, as mentioned above, should also be stressed.

A note of thanks to Congressman Williams, particularly from members in Pennsylvania, would also be appropriate.

Please keep us advised of the action taken and forward copies of any correspondence. In this way, our efforts will be coordinated.


Robert A. Reine
Executive Vice President

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