



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

### *BANNING COAL TAR IN PAVEMENT PRODUCTS*

**A.518A– ROSENTHAL**

**S.4095B - SANDERS**

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting coal tar in pavement products

#### JUSTIFICATION

Coal tar sealants are commonly used in parking lots to “beautify” asphalt every few years. It contains high amounts of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), a known carcinogen. Within just a month the coal tar sealant is worn away and scraped off by car tires, and pieces are washed into storm drains and pollute rivers, lakes, and streams.

PAHs build up in soil at the sea floor, and can be deadly to benthic invertebrates. Fish that are exposed to PAH contamination have exhibited fin erosion, liver abnormalities, cataracts, and immune system impairments leading to increased susceptibility to disease. Coal tar sealants also affect human health. People can be exposed to toxic PAHs in the sealcoat through skin contact, inhalation of wind-blown particles, and inhalation of fumes that volatilize. Studies have found that homes adjacent to parking lots that used coal tar sealants had house dust with elevated levels of PAHs.

A USGS study monitored stormwater runoff at parking lots using coal tar sealants and parking lots that did not. The study found that PAH concentrations from parking lots that used coal tar sealant were 65% higher than lots that did not use the sealant. There are viable alternatives to coal tar sealant, including asphalt-based sealants. Companies such as Home Depot and Lowes have removed these products from their shelves. Numerous local and state governments have banned coal tar sealants, including Suffolk County, NY, Washington, D.C., and the State of Washington.

This legislation would ban the sale of coal tar in pavement products (12 months after becoming law) and use of coal tar pavement products on driveways and other parking areas (48 months after becoming law).

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS**

**A.518A/S.4095B-Banning Coal Tar in Pavement Products**

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*CCE is an 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment*

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