



Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.  
Executive Director

February 2, 2017

President Ashanti Hamilton  
Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Support for File #161306, relating to the use of coal-tar sealants

Dear President Hamilton:

I am writing on behalf of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) in support of Common Council File #161306 banning the use and sale of coal-tar sealants in Milwaukee.

A recent study published by the U.S. Geological Survey and MMSD, “Coal-Tar-Sealant a Major Source of PAH Contamination in Milwaukee Streams” (<https://www.usgs.gov/news/coal-tar-sealant-a-major-source-pah-contamination-milwaukee-streams>), found that “runoff from pavement with coal-tar based sealant is the primary source of toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAH’s, to streambed sediments in Milwaukee.” The study also found that, “Seventy-eight percent of the sediment samples collected had PAH levels that could adversely affect aquatic organisms like aquatic insects. Among the most toxic samples collected were those from sections of Lincoln Creek, Underwood Creek and the West Milwaukee Ditch.”

The American Medical Association recently adopted a policy advocating for legislation banning coal-tar sealants due to the human health effects. Children living in homes where parking lots are coated with tar-based pavement sealants face a **14-fold increase in cancer risk** compared to those living next to unsealed lots, according to researchers at Baylor University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

I also wanted to make sure that you are aware that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC), on December 12, 2016, passed the following resolution in support of local restrictions on coal-tar products on a unanimous voice vote:

“It is resolved that the ICC acknowledges that coal-tar is a significant source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) loading to Milwaukee-area streambed sediments – posing great risk to both human and aquatic life – and appointed officials will work within their statutory authority to support restrictions of application, or outright banning, of coal-tar products within their respective municipalities.”

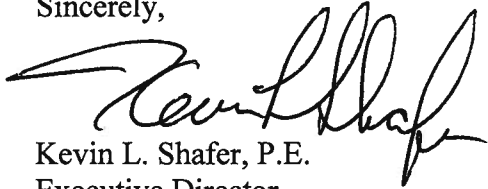
**Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District**  
260 W. Seeboth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-1446  
414-272-5100 [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com) 



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I would like to thank Milwaukee's policymakers for playing such a strong leadership role on this important public health and environmental issue. If you or any of your members have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin L. Shafer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "S".

Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

c: Mayor Tom Barrett  
Alderman Jim Bohl  
Alderman Nik Kovac  
Alderman Michael J. Murphy