

DEPAULTS HARDWARE

2000 Mendon Road
Cumberland, RI 02864

February 6, 2025

Ms. Laura Honis
Rhode Island Program Manager
PaintCare
lhonis@paint.org

Dear Ms. Honis,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the potential discontinuation of the RI PaintCare Program. We were shocked to hear that such a valuable program may be ending and we have reviewed RI H 5076 (2025). We offer the following comments in support of the continuation of the RI PaintCare Program.

We view the PaintCare Program as a vital service to the State of Rhode Island and especially the Town Of Cumberland where we are located. We are proud to participate as a local drop-off site and we, along with our customers, believe this service is invaluable to helping keep contaminants from directly negatively impacting our state's natural resources due to improper disposal.

In 2023, per the PaintCare Annual Report, **2,366 gallons of paint were placed into the recycling program from our location and thus kept from entering the state landfill or worse yet into our waterways through disposal down household drains or even storm drains.** Annual town wide drop-off days and Eco Depot events while very effective, do not address the volume of continuous need for safe disposal of household paints and stains. We can only provide anecdotal testimony from our customers but here are just a few of the comments we have heard:

- Thank goodness you are here today, we couldn't make it to the drop-off collection day and your program is available 7 days a week when your store is open.
- We tried to go to the town drop-off and it was so busy that police officers were directing the traffic backup and encouraging drivers to turn around and head to your store.
- Honestly, if this weren't so convenient I would probably just dump the paint by the side of the road.
- I got in trouble at Eco Depot for having too much paint in my car and they actually had the State Police inspect my car and question me. I didn't know the restrictions of the drop-off but here I know the rules because employees provide verbal guidance when you call and the program guidelines are posted in the store.

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We can't imagine the discontinuation of this valuable program. As a small local business, this program generates immeasurable goodwill and support for our store among those utilizing the PaintCare Program and it helps drive sales and repeat business. It is the opportunity to participate in programs like this that help differentiate us from "the big box stores". I am not aware of any of these stores participating in this program.

We are proud to offer our support for the Paint Care Program and hope for its continued funding in the State of Rhode Island. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard R. Depault".

Richard Depault, Owner
Depaults Hardware