

Dear GEAA Members and Friends,

I am delighted to report that progress is being made to remove a noxious source of pollution from our waterways and groundwater. I am referring to [coal tar \(or PAH\) sealants](#) commonly used on streets, driveways and parking lots. The sealant is worn off by abrasive action of traffic and degraded by weathering, then carried away by rainfall runoff into our streams and the aquifer.

The city of Austin was the first place in the nation to ban the use of coal-tar-based sealants early in 2006, based on water-quality studies it had carried out in conjunction with the US Geological Survey concerning water quality and PAH levels in local creeks. Last year Washington became the [first state to ban](#) coal-tar-based sealants.

Now, the EAA is considering rules to ban the use of coal-tar sealants on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. And, two weeks ago a bill was introduced to end the use of coal-tar-based sealants nationwide! [HR 4166](#) was introduced by Congressman Lloyd Doggett of Texas and has support of several other members of Congress—Jim McDermott of Washington, Keith Ellison of Minnesota, Mike Quigley of Illinois, and Bill Keating of Massachusetts—and from several environmental groups, including GEAA.

You can find more information on the site of [Coal Tar Free America](#), including a list of jurisdictions that have already banned or restricted the use of these sealants. You can read the text of the bill [here](#). Please contact your [EAA representatives](#) and [Congress](#) to let them know you support these bans.

Have a great weekend!

Annalisa Peace
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