



June 24, 2025

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The American Coatings Association (ACA) is the premier trade association dedicated to advancing the interests of the coatings industry and represents paint and coatings manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and technical professionals. This \$32 billion industry employs approximately 312,000 U.S. workers. Many of today's paints and coatings may go unnoticed by the consumer, but they play immeasurably valuable roles in delivering high-quality foodstuffs, durable goods, housing, furniture, and thousands of other products to market.

ACA strongly opposes Senate Bill 328, which would change Illinois to a “general jurisdiction” state and subject product manufacturers, like our member companies, to unprecedented liability exposure. The coatings industry has a robust presence in Illinois with over 13,200 employees and a total payroll of almost \$920,000,000. Currently, there are over 1,900 coatings facilities in the state.

Any legislation that causes our manufacturing members to reconsider their operations in Illinois or their plans to expand into the state is directly contrary to your “Open for Business” economic growth plan and your pledge to attract, retain, and expand business in the state. By unnecessarily expanding corporate liability exposure, Senate Bill 328 serves to significantly undermine economic growth in Illinois.

This legislation has dubious legal underpinnings and will undoubtedly face constitutional challenges. Moreover, the legislation embodies bad policy. A similar policy proposal has twice been rejected in New York because of the anti-competitive, anti-growth environment it would produce. Illinois does not need promote its courts as “litigation tourism” destinations that allow plaintiffs’ attorneys to bring lawsuits that have no connection to the state. Such a



policy would burden the state's court system and increase the already significant \$4,281 per household cost that tort litigation imposes on Illinois residents and businesses.¹

Senate Bill 328 will needlessly expose ACA's member companies to expanded liability and will impose unnecessary costs and burdens on businesses and residents of Illinois, including coatings companies. ACA asks for a veto of this legislation.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael M. Johnson
CEO and President

¹ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Legal Reform, *Tort Costs in America* (Nov. 2024), available at https://instituteforlegalreform.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024_ILR_USTorts-CostStudy-FINAL.pdf.