



February 18, 2020

Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Testimony regarding HB 1547, An Act Concerning Environment – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Producer Responsibility

Dear Chair Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of HB 1547, which would establish a statewide stewardship program in Maryland for synthetic turf and turf infill, managed and sustainably funded by manufacturers.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national organization committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products with a strong focus on sustainable management from design through end-of-life. We promote extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives across North America. We have done this together with 47 state environmental agency members, hundreds of local government members, and over 120 partners from business, universities, organizations, and international governments.

Producer funded and managed programs, like the one proposed in HB 1547, are well established in the U.S. Over the past 20 years, PSI and its members have played a significant role in passing most of the **119 U.S. EPR laws on 14 products in 60 jurisdictions** (33 states and 27 local governments). We have developed model bills for many products, including those similar to artificial turf, such as carpet, as well as for scrap tires, which are often recycled into crumb rubber for synthetic turf infill. EPR laws exist for many products, including batteries, carpet, cell phones, electronics, fluorescent lighting, mercury thermostats, mattresses, medical sharps, pharmaceuticals, mercury auto-switches, paint, pesticide containers, refrigerant containing devices, and solar panels. **(Please see the attached map of EPR laws in the U.S., which PSI tracks on a daily basis.)**

Stewardship programs **create jobs, provide environmental benefits, save money for governments and taxpayers**, and provide a continuous flow of quality material to recyclers and manufacturers, allowing long-term investments in recycling and manufacturing facilities. For example, Connecticut,

which has EPR laws for four products (electronics, paint, mattresses, and thermostats), has diverted more than 26 million pounds of material from disposal, yielding a cumulative cost savings of more than \$2.6 million per year to Connecticut municipalities, and providing additional recycling services worth another \$6.7 million. These laws led to the creation of more than 100 jobs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 13 million kilograms of carbon equivalent.

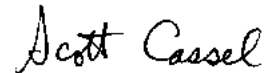
HB 1547 incorporates common elements of effective EPR laws, including the requirement that those manufacturing artificial turf bear the financial responsibility for managing their products at end-of-life. Other essential components of successful stewardship laws include a requirement for producers to submit a stewardship plan to the state oversight agency (e.g., Maryland Department of the Environment) for its approval. These plans allow producers the flexibility and autonomy to outline how they will collect and manage used artificial turf in an environmentally sound manner and track it throughout the process. We strongly support the provision in HB 1547 that requires producers to establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf and turf infill, from manufacture to installation, use, reuse, recycling, and final disposal – for **both turf and infill already installed and newly manufactured products**. PSI works with several companies that provide this service for other stewardship programs, which they accomplish through advanced software and communications technology.

The bill also contains performance goals (target recycling rates), which is an important mechanism by which governments hold producers accountable. And finally, funding for state oversight, as well as opportunities for public review and comment on the stewardship plan, are also key elements of any effective stewardship program.

To create a sustainable program to responsibly manage synthetic turf and turf infill, we strongly urge you to support the passage of HB 1547.

If you have any questions regarding how EPR policies work in other states, or how those policies might work in Maryland on artificial turf, please feel free to contact me at (617) 236-4822, or Scott@ProductStewardship.US.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Cassel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Office/Founder