



Written Testimony – Opposition to HB 1032  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Delegates

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and esteemed members of this committee. As the global leader in synthetic turf, FieldTurf opposes HB 1032 for the reasons stated in our testimony below. Additionally, in our testimony we've shared our focus on sustainability as a company and highlighted the many benefits turf fields offer to our communities.

1. There are more than 90 studies, peer-reviewed, academic analyses and government reports demonstrating there is no increased health risk to children or adults from playing on fields and playgrounds made with recycled rubber infill.
2. A very large percentage of our field replacement customers re-use the existing infill for their new field, with no reduction in quality or performance with the product. (roughly 85% of the weight of a field is in the infill)
3. Turf playing fields are viewed as a treasure in the communities that have them. Ask the high school coaches, recreational coaches, student athletes, parks directors and school administrators across the State that play on these fields. i.e. University of Maryland and Navy
4. Turf fields have increased opportunities for play time.
  - a. Not as impacted by weather / rain outs
  - b. More durable so can be used by more constituencies
  - c. Increased exercise and outdoor time for youth
5. The proposed bill states that localities would no longer be able to use recycled rubber from tires for their athletic fields. This would remove the safest, most durable and most tested turf infill product off the market leading to an inability for localities, schools and parks to install the safest fields for their youth to play on.
6. If this bill was passed into law, the over 15 Million tires that our company alone has diverted from landfills would now end up in our local landfills. The turf industry has provided a safe and useful alternative for the disposal of tires when they reach their end of life and are continuously innovating to provide more opportunities for turf fields and infill at end of life.

## **BUILDING FOR TOMORROW. IT'S OUR SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT.**

That means our innovation isn't limited to product specs. Our promise to keep players safe on our turf has naturally evolved into an obsession — one with a singular focus to completely eliminate its potential to harm not just people but the environment too. Now in everything we do, we strive for the lowest impact on people and the planet — from Cradle to Cradle™ manufacturing, to circular design, to the utmost care for those who play on and handle our products.

## **PEOPLE. PLANET. PERIOD. OUR SUSTAINABILITY IS FOCUSED**

### **WE CONSERVE WATER**

Water is essential to life and a human right, and its stewardship is core to our sustainability strategy. From manufacturing to installation, our products address water efficiency, scarcity and quality.

### **WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE**

We focus on efficient production, reducing the environmental impact of our own operations, and achieving the highest quality manufacturing certifications (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001).

### **WE USE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS**

We innovate our choice of product components and materials using closed-loop design thinking that respects workers and the planet, resulting in a more sustainable product, and the only artificial turf product to obtain Cradle to Cradle™ Bronze certification.

**GET  
STARTED**

### **WE NURTURE HUMAN POTENTIAL**

People are central to what we do. We make unlocking their innate talents a focus, ensuring they have the agency to take action and fulfill their potential, and we motivate them through transparency and open communication.

### **WE SAFEGUARD ATHLETES**

We were founded with the promise to make athletes safer during the game — and now we extend that promise to all the lives we touch through rigorous safety testing, product performance, and respect for the wellbeing of our people and our communities.

## LOWERING OUR PRODUCT IMPACT

Because sustainable sport is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, preserving our ecosystems is a part of what drives all of our product innovation. After all, if there's no planet, there's no play.

### CONSERVING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

-  Saving trillions of gallons of clean water each year
-  Eliminating the use of billions of pounds of chemicals each year
-  Removing millions of tires from landfill sites each year
-  Eliminating fuel-powered mowing, aerating & re-seeding
-  Eliminating the massive CO2 emissions caused by grass clippings

### CONVERTING WASTE INTO NEW RESOURCES

-  Creating VersaTile shock and drainage tiles from old fields
-  Turning post-industrial turf and aged carpet into high-performance EcoMax infill
-  Recycling old infill into new clean infill

### DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE OF PLAY

The power of sport has a global reach. It drives community development and collaboration, empowers youth and individuals, adds to health and education, and can help us create a more inclusive society.

We partner with organizations building sport capacity, whether it's mentoring coaches or making the game more accessible, ensuring future generations continue to play.

## MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE EVERY YEAR



**9**  
**TRILLION**  
**SAVED**

9 trillion gallons of water saved annually



**15**  
**MILLION**  
**RECYCLED**

15 million tires recycled into raw materials to build new fields

1.6 million tires worth of infill is cleaned and re-used annually into new fields



**4.1**  
**THOUSAND**  
**TONS**  
**RECYCLED**

4100 US tons of pre-consumer and post-industrial material is recycled annually at our manufacturing facilities

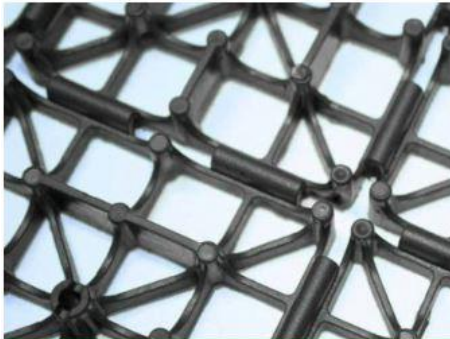


**25**  
**MILLION**  
**SAVED**

25 million pounds of fertilizer saved annually

## GREENER PRODUCTS

Discover the FieldTurf products that are leading the change. Our unwavering commitment to quality and innovation helps power our drive to Change The Game for athletes and for the planet.



### VERSATILE

The ultimate drainage and shock underlayment solution, VersaTile delivers the perfect mix of drainage and shock absorption. Made from recycled post-industrial turf and thermoelastomers, VersaTile transform excess into a green solution.



### THERMAGREEN

SportLite by ThermoGreen is a nonwoven Geotextile shock & drainage pad. Made of post-industrial cross-linked polyethylene, every field installed helps divert over twelve truck-loads of foam from landfills.



GET STARTED

### RE-COVER

Instead of removing and disposing an aged field, FieldTurf Re-Cover, a patent-pending process, installs a new field on top of the existing surface. The process repurposes the existing field to help provide added safety and performance to the new field.



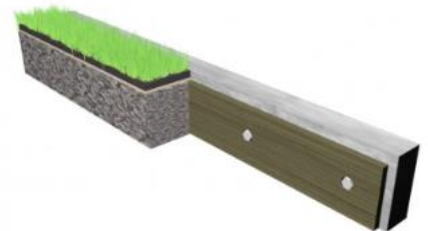
### ECOMAX

The infill system utilizes extruded composite pellets made up of recycled post-industrial turf and thermoplastic elastomer that offers a green solution without sacrificing performance and durability.



### FINDING NEW HOMES

Many aged sports fields have been repurposed for landscape or recreational use. The system might no longer be right for competitive activities but still has a lot of life for other settings. We encourage and help organizations donate their aged surface to local communities.



### GREENBOARD

The innovative technology combines "nonrecyclable" plastics and postconsumer turf to make a durable and 100% recycled fiber-reinforced composite board with zero wood content.

GET STARTED

## **DRIVING THE FIELD TO ZERO**

When it comes to waste, we have a simple mission: create a future where none of our products ever makes it to a landfill. Getting there isn't just a journey; it's a quest. It's why we've devoted our research and development efforts to tackle the complexity required to recycle old turf. It's why we repurpose key materials from end-of-life installations to create the advanced components of future products.

And it's why we continue to be the forefront of developing technology to expand end-of-life turf applications — transforming would-be waste and dispersed materials into useful new products with renewed value.

While we may not have an exact date, and don't want to throw out an obscure year in the future, our dedication of **DRIVING THE FIELD TO ZERO** is very much alive.

Follow our journey.

For all of the reasons stated, we oppose House Bill 1032 and request an unfavorable vote.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.