



ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU
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WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947
February 1, 2021

Hon. Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 472 Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Barve,

The St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Board of Directors opposes House Bill 472, titled Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition.

The proposal to ban the use of glyphosate is not based on science. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported, as recently as January 2020, that there is no risk to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported in the results of its 2019 annual Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program, that all detectable glyphosate residue levels "were below tolerance levels set by the EPA." The FDA's results are consistent with the findings of other regulatory authorities around the world.

If glyphosate usage is banned in Maryland, it will wreak havoc on farmer's ability to produce safe, affordable food for our citizens. Farmers will have to resort to using harsher chemicals to control weeds in field crops or worse, they will have to revert to conventional tillage, which will derail efforts to support water quality improvement initiatives to reduce the total maximum daily loads of nutrients and sediment entering our waterways. Taking glyphosate out of the farmer's tool box is simply bad public policy and is based on emotion not science.

Farm bureau respectfully requests that your committee give an unfavorable report on HB 472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James K. Raley, Jr.", is written over a white background.

James K. Raley, Jr.
President
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau