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Maryland General Assembly
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Buildin

Written Testimony in opposition of : House Bill No. 299

This bill would “target” the Landscaping Industry in Maryland when , in fact, it seems to me that your concerns are for the environment in general . The potential for damages from the handling of turf related products is not any different from many other Products/Industries. If this bill were to pass and become law, what’s next ? It would have to be the chain of custody for all construction projects to include home remodeling to address the many other products that are, in many cases, much more toxic and concerning, like:

Flooring materials, tiles with asbestos.
Painted masonry products, possibly with lead paint
Asphalt shingles, oil based and will last forever in the environment
Carpeting
Drywall materials, on and on

Where would this thinking stop ?

I think the State of Maryland already has this potential challenge under control with our Transportation Agency.

As an owner of one of the largest turf companies in the State, we have quite a few dump trucks in our line of tools. We have first hand experience with one of our trucks leaving a job site that is muddy from bad weather and driving down the road throwing mud everywhere for a quarter mile, being issued a ticket then or later and on a few occasions being issued a “stop work” order. With everyone having a cell phone/ camera, we would have to be crazy to think we could possibly get away with this. Thus, this speaks to the cartage of materials in and out of a job site. Carrying materials into a job is a very clean operation as the “turf” is rolled up just like new rolls of carpeting. Therefore, you are only talking about removing an existing turf project. If and when an installed product

needs to be replaced, that would be the time to make sure it ends up either in an acceptable recycling property or reused for another job.

Note: We use a company, Best Plus Lumber who recycles all of our scraps and discards and make perimeter boards that we reuse.

We also install about 750-1000 jobs per year and have replaced maybe two in the last 10 years. Please keep in mind that our Turf products DO NOT REQUIRE RUBBER INFIL.....

Reusing turf is not very popular and typically goes to animal shelters as a donation. Either way, this might be the "trigger" to feel assured that our environment remains as safe and clean as it can. But, are you really worried about 2 jobs in 10 years ?

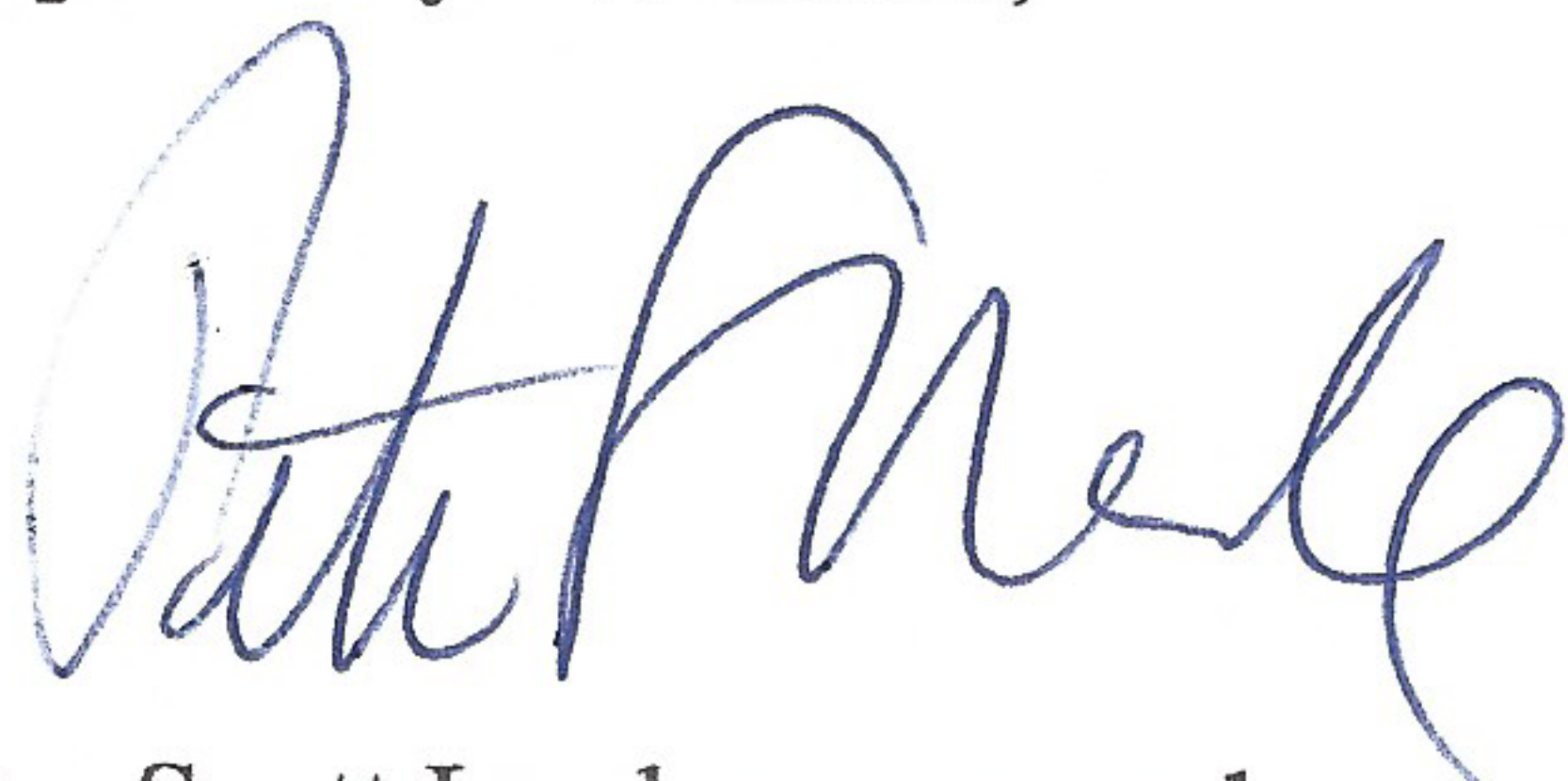
The bill also references an approximate cost initially of approximately \$ 52,000.00 the first year. I would challenge this as it doesn't reflect any new software or hardware required, no health insurance nor auto expenses. I would suggest that you are looking at approximately \$ 100,000.00. How will Marylanders' feel about this unnecessary cost ? Do we need to add more unnecessary costs to our budget ?

When I think about this bill putting the onerous on us, potential \$5000.00 fine, costs to report, being kept in the loop well after a job is completed and paid for, then possibly be drawn into a conflict because our homeowner had a friend of his cousin make alterations to our install.....

The last point I want to make. Your language in the bill refers several times to "sports and playing fields". A typical sports and playing field is approximately 70,000 Square Feet. Just fine tuning this bill to reflect 70,000 SF would help to minimize the added costs in many ways, not to mention that our local building inspectors could handle that without much added expense.

We are one of the largest turf companies in the State and we oppose this bill as it unfairly targets our industry, overlooks a plethora of other industries, it is redundant and a waste of tax payers money.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Scott Lord". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being the most prominent.

Peter Scott Lord, owner and manager

Cc: Kaitlyn Lord, President