

February 14, 2024

Capitol Turf Pros

Subject: Input Regarding Maryland House Bill 457

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Capitol Turf Pros to express my concerns regarding Maryland House Bill 457 and its proposed language. I am a long time resident and small business owner in the landscape construction industry for over 21 years now! I believe it is important that we take a serious look at the potential ramifications of this proposed bill.

As I understand this bill, it limits turf fields or turf installations to a size of 5000 sq. ft. or less. The average athletic field is between 40,000-75,000 sq. ft. Would we really tell the hundreds of schools across our state that the option to construct a new artificial turf field is no longer an option??

There are numerous reasons why synthetic is highly advantageous over real grass. For starters the youth athletic industry in the state of Maryland is so big that these fields see traction all day long and all weekend long. If they weren't artificial they would be dirt or mud in days, so they provide an outlet for Maryland's youth. There is pragmatic justification for building these fields.

Artificial fields can control water drainage much more efficiently than dirt/grass fields when done correctly. The safety ratings or what is known as the G-max rating can be monitored for safety much easier than grass fields. Games can be played during or after rain with less ground erosion as compared to real grass fields. These are just a few of the reasons our communities require these facilities. To take that away would be a clear backwards move in my opinion.

Please consider opposing this bill as it is written. The negative impact to our Maryland communities would be far reaching and even more importantly, to the predominant end users, our children. Providing our youth with safe, clean artificial parks from playgrounds to the athletic fields should be everyone's goal. I'm happy to help further this discussion if you would like to.

Sincerely,

Robert DelGaudio

President

240-793-7741

rob@capitolturfpros.com