



Senate Bill 854

Agriculture – Nuisance Insects

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 27, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 854. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to conduct certain nuisance insect mitigation if a county or municipality agrees to pay 50% of costs associated with the project.

As climate change continues and Maryland's environment deviates from historic trends, the State and county governments will see an increasing number of natural phenomena which break with what previously would be considered "normal." An often-underappreciated instance of this is the proliferation of certain nuisance insects. As the climate becomes warmer, insect breeding and feeding seasons become longer, and the chilling effects of the winter months become less potent. As insects do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, actors at multiple levels of government must coordinate on certain mitigation efforts. SB 854 encourages that coordination and requires MDA to be more active in areas where they can.

SB 854 is a commonsense bill that aligns state and local resources in order to better manage out-of-control nuisance insect populations. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 854.