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TESTIMONY ON HB#0457 - FAVORABLE
Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0457, Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody

While synthetic turf fields may make maintenance of a field for multiple sports usage those turfs carry significant risks and can degrade the environment. This bill will ensure that the installation, maintenance and replacement of any synthetic turf field in Maryland mitigates, as much as possible, negative environmental impact and safe disposal of any synthetic turf field cover.

Dr. Andrew Weil has answered the question “Is Artificial Grass Toxic”. The doctor says there are some benefits but that is likely outweighed by the negative environmental factors present in synthetic turf itself. ¹

The environmental organization, Beyond Plastics, is firm in their opinion of why artificial turf poses such a danger in its usage and its disposal. Their conclusion is “Artificial Turf is HAZARDOUS”. Among the problems they document are high heat, toxic chemicals, and microplastics. ²

This bill will not stop the installation and maintenance of those fields but will permit the Department of the Environment to take proactive steps to mitigate as much harm from those fields as is possible. This bill is both a health and an environmental protection bill.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0457.

¹ <https://www.drweil.com/health-wellness/balanced-living/gardening/is-artificial-grass-toxic/>

²² <https://www.beyondplastics.org/fact-sheets/synthetic-turf>