

March 5, 2020

STATEMENT OF  
THE TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 1098  
BEFORE THE  
MARYLAND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ROOM 120  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Dear Chair McIntosh, Vice-Chair Jackson, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

I respectfully submit this statement on behalf of over 300 Maryland businesses that are members of the Tire Industry Association (TIA).

The Tire Industry Association is an international non-profit association representing all segments of the tire industry, including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service or use new or retreaded tires, and also those suppliers or individuals who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry.

The mission of TIA is to promote tire safety through training and education, to act as the principal advocate in government affairs and to enhance the image and professionalism of the industry so that our member businesses may be more successful. TIA has more than 13,000 members from all 50 states and around the globe. As the industry leader in tire service technician training, TIA has educated more than 160,000 people since 1997.

TIA opposes House Bill 1098.

Prohibiting the use of state funds to finance any part of a project to build a new or replace an existing playground or athletic field with a synthetic surface could cause an environmental disaster in the state and set back years of positive recycling projects.

Prohibiting tires to be recycled in synthetic turf athletic fields will hurt our environment and Maryland field owners. There are an estimated 275 million cars on the road in the United States, which equates to 1.1 billion tires. Every year, over 30 million tires are recycled for use in synthetic turf fields. **Each synthetic turf football field diverts between 18,000 to 20,000 tires from being dumped illegally, dumped into landfills or incinerated as fuel.**<sup>1</sup> End-of-life passenger tires and truck and bus radial tires are beneficially recycled into infill on synthetic turf athletic fields and overall are recovered at higher rates than aluminum cans, glass, cardboard, and paper.

What's more, recycled rubber is scientifically proven safe material. More than 110 technical studies and reports have examined various health and human safety questions relating to the use of recycled rubber as an aftermarket product, including its use as infill in synthetic turf sports fields. The majority of the studies were conducted by independent academic, federal and state government

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<sup>1</sup> Entire Synthetic Turf Fields Now Being Recycled, Athletic Business, <https://www.athleticbusiness.com/Stadium-Arena/entire-synthetic-turf-fields-now-being-recycled.html>



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organizations, and involved chemical engineers, toxicologists, epidemiologists, chemists, biologists, and other medical professionals. They estimated whether toxins are present at any level of concern, whether the human body can access them, and if exposure over time increases risk. **All have confirmed there is very little to no risk for people playing on synthetic turf fields with recycled rubber infill.**

In July 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its crumb rubber characterization report, which summarized results on a range of metals and organic chemicals which the EPA found in their study of tire crumb rubber, confirming what we already knew: crumb rubber is made of the same components found in everyday consumer products, and hospital and classroom floors.<sup>2</sup> In the dozens of substances tested, it found low and below-detection limits emissions consistent with previous studies. Also in July 2019, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) released four reports on potential human exposure to crumb rubber.<sup>3</sup> The reports examined the chemical and physical characterization of crumb rubber and conducted *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies on various routes of exposure from crumb rubber, observing no evidence of health problems in the studies.

TIA remains dedicated to the continuous improvement of the performance and environmental impact of synthetic turf systems throughout their lifecycles and are happy to assist in clarifying the uncertainties or questions that you may have concerning synthetic turf systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Littlefield IV

Director of Government Affairs  
Tire Industry Association

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<sup>2</sup> Summary of EPA and NTP Studies on Crumb Rubber,  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.syntheticturfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/research/research\\_summary\\_of\\_recycled.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.syntheticturfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/research/research_summary_of_recycled.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



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