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To the Maryland State House Appropriations Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 1098

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you as a citizen who is very involved in youth sports and I would like to express my opposition to HB 1098.

The reason I am opposed to the bill is that it excludes any state funds for use in fields or playgrounds with artificial turf. This seems very shortsighted to me as a taxpayer.

Artificial turf is here to stay and has many positive attributes, especially in high use areas. As there is more and more pressure for fields and play space, especially in the more populated areas of the state, turf is the preferred surface to keep athletic areas open and available for use. While they do require maintenance, they are open and available much more than grass fields.

We need to keep our kids outside and moving and playing, so a surface that is available and useable more often, is a good choice for fields and playgrounds.

I am not sure why this bill was proposed, as it seems to target excluding funding from areas such as mine, that have invested heavily in public recreation facilities. I know from my involvement with youth sports that programs from other counties are always clamoring to use our facilities that have artificial turf.

It seems silly to me to exclude from state funding a surface that is mainstream and highly desirable such as artificial turf, especially since so many taxpayers benefit from it.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Maclean