



Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0472 - Agriculture – Use of Glyphosate – Prohibition

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 3, 2021

Bill Contact: Delegate Pat Young

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all the members of our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment. DTMG strongly supports HB0472 because it will keep Maryland residents safe by banning use of the dangerous herbicide glyphosate in the state.

Glyphosate is one of the world's most common herbicides. It is the active ingredient in popular weed-control products like Roundup, Rodeo, and Pondmaster, and is used in agriculture as well as by homeowners. Glyphosate is also used in public spaces like parks and playgrounds to prevent the growth of weeds and other unwanted plants. People are exposed to glyphosate through their skin, their eyes, or by breathing it in while using it, or by touching plants that are still wet with spray. People may also ingest glyphosate if they eat or smoke after applying it without washing their hands first.

We may also be exposed to glyphosate in our food. Glyphosate is mostly applied to corn, soybean and wheat crops, but is increasingly sprayed just before harvest on oats, chickpeas and other crops as a drying agent to speed the harvest, thereby contaminating foods made from these crops. Glyphosate was found in nearly every sample of popular oat-based cereals and other foods marketed to children. Glyphosate has also been found in grain and bean products, like pasta, buckwheat, barley, kidney beans, and chickpeas, as well as in avocados, apples, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, dates, dried peas, garlic, lemons, olives, peanuts, pomegranates, potatoes, rice, spinach, sugarcane, tobacco, tomatoes, and walnuts.

There is growing evidence that long-term exposure to glyphosate and accumulation of glyphosate in our bodies causes cancer in people. In 2015, glyphosate was classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a probable carcinogen for people, and in 2017, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment listed glyphosate as a chemical known to cause cancer. Glyphosate may also cause liver and kidney damage; dairy cows eating a diet of soybeans with high levels of glyphosate had higher risks of liver and kidney damage. In another study, pregnant rats who were given high doses got sick and their fetuses had slow weight gain and skeletal defects.

Therefore, this dangerous chemical should be banned in Maryland. Several countries have already banned glyphosate completely or set out specific restrictions regarding its use: In 2014, the Netherlands prohibited the sale of glyphosate to consumers for use at home. As of June 30, 2021, the sale and use of glyphosate herbicides will be banned in Vietnam. The German government also announced in 2019 that the use of glyphosate will be prohibited starting at the end of 2023.

For all these reasons, DTMG strongly supports HB0472 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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