



# **HB 1025 Carbofuran - Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage**

## **House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 24, 2021**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein and member of the committee,

The Maryland *Smart on Pesticides Coalition* facilitated by the Maryland Pesticide Education Network, works to protect Marylanders and the natural systems we depend upon from the adverse impacts of pesticides. The coalition includes 108 organizations, and institutions representing health care associations, communities, businesses, health care providers, farmers, environmentalists, waterkeepers, interfaith congregants as well as environmental justice, public health and wildlife advocates. The Coalition urges the committee's favorable report for HB1025.

**Why carbofuran was banned by the US EPA:** While there are thousands of pesticides registered by the US EPA and many have been linked to adverse impacts on the health of people, pollinators, the Bay ecosystem and found to contribute to climate change issues, there are certain pesticides that EPA has taken the rare action of fully banning due to their extremely serious adverse impacts. One of these pesticides is carbofuran, banned in 2009.

A powerful neurotoxin, carbofuran poses a danger to human health and wildlife in the natural environment. According to the EPA, carbofuran is highly mobile in soils, dissolves in water, and has been commonly found in groundwater.

Carbofuran, is so toxic to birds that one granule is all it takes to kill. In 2016, thirteen bald eagles were found dead on a farm in Maryland after ingesting carbofuran. The 2009 EPA action to cancel carbofuran food uses was the culmination of a regulatory process that began in 2006 when the agency published its risk assessments for carbofuran and determined that no uses were eligible for reregistration, finding "dietary, worker, and ecological risks are unacceptable for all uses of carbofuran. All products containing carbofuran generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on humans and the environment and do not meet safety standards, and therefore are ineligible for reregistration."

**The problem of stockpiled carbofuran in Maryland:** Carbofuran has continued to be *legally* stockpiled in Maryland while its illegal to use.

In May of 2019 the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) issued a Pesticide Enforcement Advisory clearly warning that it is illegal under state and federal law to use or sell carbofuran. The law however, does not make ownership illegal. MDA has urged people with old stocks to come forward to arrange proper disposal.

HB 1025 addresses the loophole in the law that has made illegal use more possible by allowing for stockpiling an illegal chemical. HB 1025 would prohibit a person from possessing or storing any quantity of carbofuran after January 1, 2021, and, thus, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Natural Resources or a Natural Resources police officer to seize the pesticide for enforcement purposes. We need this regulation to support law enforcement officers to do their job. Only with legal backing can they confiscate the chemical and send it for proper disposal.

We request a favorable report on HB1025.

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### SMART ON PESTICIDES COALITION MEMBERS

- A.I.R Lawncare and Landscaping Services
- Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment
- American Academy of Pediatrics–Md. Chapter
- American Public Health Association–Md. Chapter
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Annapolis Green
- Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association
- Assateague Coastal Trust
- Audubon Maryland - DC
- Audubon Naturalist Society
- Baltimore Backyard Beekeepers Network
- Baltimore Bird Club
- Bee Friendly Apairy
- Beyond Pesticides
- Big City Farms
- Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association
- CATA, Farmworker Support Committee
- Carroll County Beekeepers Association
- Cecil Bird Club
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Food Safety
- Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
- Central Maryland Ecumenical Council/Ecumenical Leaders Group
- Centro de los Derechos del Migrante
- Charles Smith Apiaries
- Charm City Meadworks
- Chesapeake BaySavers
- Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Children’s Environmental Health Network
- Clean Bread and Cheese Creek
- Clean Water Action
- Common Market Co-Op
- Conservation Community Consultants
- Cottingham Farm
- Crossroads Community Food Network
- Earth Coalition
- Earthjustice
- Eastern Shore Food Hub
- Environment Maryland
- Fair Farms
- F&D Apiaries
- Farmworker Justice
- Food and Water Watch
- Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center
- Frederick Co. Beekeepers Association
- Friends of Briers Mill Run
- Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
- Friends of Quincy Run
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenbelt Forest Preserve Butterfly Brigade
- Hampden Community Council
- Hereford Bed and Biscuit
- HoneyFlower Foods
- Howard County Beekeepers Association
- Howard County Bird Club
- Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake
- Interfaith Power & Light
- Jaires Workgroup/Black By Nature
- Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
- Karma.Farm
- KW Landscaping
- Latino Farmers & Ranchers Assoc.–Md. Chapter
- League of Women Voters of Maryland
- Learning Disabilities Association–Md. Chapter
- Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
- Maryland Autism Project
- Maryland Bass Nation
- Maryland Conservation Council
- Maryland Ethical Cannabis Association
- Maryland League of Conservation Voters
- Maryland Nurses Association
- Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Maryland Pesticide Education Network
- Maryland Public Interest Research Group
- Maryland United for Peace and Justice
- Maryland Votes for Animals
- McDaniel Honey Farm
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Moms Clean Air Force
- MOM’S Organic Market
- Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- National Aquarium
- National Resources Defense Council
- Organic Consumers Association
- Pearlstone Conference Center
- Pesticide Action Network–North America
- Potomac Riverkeeper

Queen Anne's Conservation Association  
Rachel Carson Council  
Really Raw Honey Company  
Red Top Farm  
Rodale Institute  
Rousedale Farm  
Ruscombe Community Health Center  
SafeGrow Montgomery  
Safe Minds  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Sierra Club–Maryland Chapter  
Spa Creek Conservancy  
The Flower Factory  
Towson Estates Association  
Trout Unlimited  
Washington County Beekeepers Association  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake  
Westport Farmers Market  
Westport Neighborhood Association  
Wicomico Environmental Trust

