



Statement of Luke Goembel, Ph.D.
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In support of HB 472, Use of Glyphosate Prohibition

A 2019 Yale publication notes:

“Although the herbicide does not appear as toxic to bees as some other pesticides (notably neurotoxins known as neonicotinoids), researchers have found that glyphosate may impact bees in more subtle ways — for example, impeding the growth of bee larvae, diminishing bees’ navigational skills, altering their foraging behavior, or even disrupting their gut microorganisms, known as the microbiome.”

[<https://e360.yale.edu/features/bee-alert-is-a-controversial-herbicide-harming-honeybees>]

That publication offers a synopsis, and includes hyperlinks to appropriate studies, of what beekeepers are facing since the explosion in glyphosate use since in the 2000s due to use on “Roundup Ready” crops.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, one-third of every bite we eat is due to pollination. In the last few decades Maryland beekeepers have been suffering 30-40% hive losses, whereas in past decades 5-10% losses were expected. We, as an informed, intelligent society, must stop killing our pollinators with this ever-increasing onslaught of agricultural chemicals.

As a beekeeper and scientist who is very concerned about the health of our vital pollinators, I wholeheartedly support House Bill 427 and urge a yes vote. Thank you.

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA)

Contact us at: Info@CentralMarylandBees.org

Meeting at: Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Cockeysville, MD 21030

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