



Maryland Grain Producers Association
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House Bill 472 – Agriculture – Glyphosate – Prohibition

Committee: Environment & Transportation

MGPA Position: **OPPOSED**

The Maryland Grain Producers Association serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. On an annual basis, nearly a million acres of these crops are grown in Maryland.

House Bill 472 would ban the use of glyphosate in Maryland. Glyphosate is an important crop protection tool for Maryland farmers to control weeds that seek to compete with crops for nutrients and introduce other pests and diseases to their fields. Glyphosate can be used both prior to planting grain and during the growing season. This allows farmers to control weeds without tilling the land, disturbing the soil structure, and releasing soil carbon into the atmosphere.

Maryland farmers are responsible for a large portion of the planned nutrient reductions under Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Two of the most important conservation practices needed to reach those goals are cover crops and no-till; both made possible, in part, by glyphosate. While there are other herbicides available to farmers to control weeds, glyphosate is an effective, affordable option. To avoid weed resistance to any one herbicide, farmers rotate between different products so that weeds do not become resistance to any one product.

Farmers also value glyphosate as a tool for counties, municipalities, and the state to use in land management. Government effectively managing weeds on public properties and rights-of-ways aids in reducing weed pressure in the agricultural fields that border those properties.

Glyphosate has been used safely by farmers for over 40 years. During that time, there have been over 800 studies and reviews published demonstrating the safety of products containing glyphosate: making it one of the most studied herbicides in history. Contrary to the categorization by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a "probable carcinogen," no regulatory agency in the world has concluded in their reviews that glyphosate is a carcinogen, and it remains registered for use in 160 countries.

Farmers are concerned for their health and the health of their families and workers more than anyone else. In 2018, the U.S. National Cancer Institute published a [study](#) following over 50,000 licensed pesticide applicators from 1997-2017 and found no association between glyphosate and cancer risk.

Glyphosate is a safe, effective, and affordable tool Maryland farmers use to control weeds while still meeting water quality and climate change mitigation goals. MGPA has confidence in the regulatory agencies both in the U.S. and around the world that have confirmed time, and time again, the safety of glyphosate for humans when used according to the labeled directions.

MGPA respectfully asks for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 472.