



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 472**

TITLE: Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition

SPONSOR: Delegate Young

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: February 3, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 472 – Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition. This legislation would restrict the use of glyphosates to bar them from State and County government use.

Glyphosate is the main active ingredient in popular herbicide brands. Recent studies have found that the chemical compound may have adverse health effects particularly on those who are tasked with applying it. Glyphosate has been linked to non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, myeloma, and was recently classified by the World Health Organization as a probable carcinogen for humans.

It has long been a priority of Baltimore County Executive Olszewski’s to make government practices safe and worker-friendly. This is why Baltimore County ceased the use of glyphosates internally and opted for the brand Cheetah Pro, an herbicide which contains an alternative chemical compound known as glufosinate ammonium. It has proven to be just as effective and, most importantly, keeps the County’s workers safe.

The County feels the legislation could be strengthened with an amendment clarifying that the restrictions apply solely to state and local government, as that is its intent. As scientists have begun to uncover the toxicity of once commonly used items, it has never been more critical to confront those products that also have a direct impact on the health of all that work and live in the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 472. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.