



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2021

To: The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa  
District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB1025 Pesticides – Carbofuran –  
Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage

---

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 1025 which would eliminate stockpiles of carbofuran, a dangerous pesticide banned over a decade ago, that continues to contribute to the deaths of wildlife, including bald eagles, and also poses significant risks to human health.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the use of all formulae of the pesticide carbofuran, also known as (Furadan®) in December 2009. After a thorough regulatory review process, the EPA determined that “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.” According to the EPA, carbofuran is highly mobile in soils, dissolves in water, and has been commonly found in groundwater. In fact, a single grain of carbofuran can kill a songbird.

While it took the unusual measure of completely banning carbofuran, the EPA’s ban did not include a requirement that remaining stockpiles be confiscated. Since then carbofuran continues to be used illegally, posing a danger to human health and wildlife, especially eagles.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the illegal use of granular carbofuran has resulted in the death of 36 bald eagles and 5 golden eagles in Maryland since 1988, and 19 eagles have died from carbofuran poisoning after the prohibition of this pesticide’s use. Eagle deaths and poisonings have been investigated by Maryland

Natural Resources Police and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. According to media reports, authorities say they think old stocks of the pesticide carbofuran (were) being used to kill foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and other farm pests, but it harms the eagles that scavenge on the dead animal remains (NBC 4 May 5, 2019). However, as it is not illegal to possess carbofuran, investigations into the illegal use of the banned pesticide were hindered.

HB 1025 addresses the loophole in the law that has made illegal use possible. This bill would prohibit a person from possessing or storing any quantity of carbofuran after January 1, 2024. HB 1025 authorizes the Maryland Department of Agriculture along with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to:

- Eliminate stockpiles of carbofuran in the state.
- Require all quantities of carbofuran to be collected or seized by 2023.
- Ensure all quantities of carbofuran that are collected or seized are destroyed.
- Authorizes Natural Resources police to seize the pesticide for enforcement purposes.

Thankfully, the Bald Eagle population has made a comeback from the devastating effects DDT (another banned pesticide) had on its numbers during the last century. Through this proposed legislation, eliminating the current hazard to Maryland's Bald Eagle population from stockpiles of banned carbofuran will help protect these federally and state protected birds and keep their populations growing.

I respectfully urge a favorable report.