



TESTIMONY FROM THE MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES IN OPPOSITION

HOUSE BILL 472

Agriculture- USE OF GLYPHOSATE -Prohibition

January 27, 2021

THE HONORABLE KUMAR BARVE, CHAIR
& DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On behalf of Maryland's forest community – as represented by the Maryland Forests Association and the Association of Forest Industries – we join the State's agricultural community in asking the General Assembly to not ban the use of glyphosate due to the detrimental impacts it will have on the health of Maryland's forests.

Maryland's forests – declared by State law as critical to Maryland's Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and rural employment – are vulnerable to invasive forest plants, keeping them healthy sometimes requires the use chemicals used sparingly and under appropriate application guidelines. Glyphosate has proven to be an effective tool for both large scale and small applications to not only control exotic invasives, but also as site prep for successful reforestation.

Due to climate change, there is a never-ending wave of non-native plants colonizing our landscapes. With no alternative tool available, we feel it would be reckless to the future management of forest ecosystems to ban the use glyphosate. For these reasons we cannot support the passage of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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