



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

February 3, 2021

Ref. HB 472- Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition

Position - **Unfavorable Report**

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Schlossberg and I am President of the Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc. (MAGI). We represent lawn care companies, golf course superintendents and pest control companies in Maryland. I myself am an agronomist and have owned a lawn care business in Baltimore County and provide services to clients in the Baltimore metro area.

Our organization is against HB 472 and asks the committee for an unfavorable report for several reasons. First, we do not think the science justifies removing this widely used product from the market. Most of the impetus for this bill comes from the unending amount of commercials on television, radio and online for the class-action lawsuits. Monsanto and Bayer stand by this active ingredient and feel it is safe to use when used as specified on the label including the use of proper PPE.

Next, in addition to professionals, many homeowners use glyphosate on a regular basis to control weeds and grasses in their flower beds, sidewalk cracks and other areas where they don't want weeds growing. And despite what the proponents have stated, there is no replacement for glyphosate that doesn't require many more repeat applications. Glyphosate is the only non-selective weed and grass killer that translocates down to the roots.

The Cheetah-Pro product that has been mentioned as a replacement has little or no translocation in its mode of action. Because of this, as professionals, it would require much more labor cost that we would have to pass on to our clients.

As turf management professionals, we do not use glyphosate unless we are renovating areas of lawn, athletic fields or golf courses. However, to many of those in our Industry that maintain other areas of the landscape, not being able to utilize glyphosate would definitely negatively affect their business.

We ask for an unfavorable report for HB 472.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Schlossberg,
President