

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: *Letter of Information – House Bill 472 – Agriculture – Use of Glyphosate – Prohibition*

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 472 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Maryland Weed Control Law requires landowners to manage noxious weeds, which includes the MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). Noxious weeds cause economic and environmental harm, spread aggressively, reproduce quickly and tolerate a wide range of environments. To manage noxious weeds, MDOT SHA typically uses Glyphosate, commonly known as “Roundup.”

Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide, meaning it controls most weeds and grasses in a single treatment. Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide, meaning it moves from the treated foliage to other parts of the plant, such as the roots, making it the best herbicide for managing annual and perennial weeds. Glyphosate also leaves little to no soil residue, the herbicide becomes inactive allowing use under trees and shrubs without adverse effects on desirable plants.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 472.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitch Baldwin
State Legislative Manager
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-545-0342

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090