



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 3, 2021

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB472 - Agriculture - Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 472. This bill would ban the use of glyphosate (Round-Up) by anyone in the State on or after October 1, 2022.

There are multiple reasons on why this bill would be devastating to farmers in Maryland not to mention the virtual impossibility to control noxious weeds and the state meeting its 2025 water quality goals. Not only have "real" science proved that Round-Up is one of the safest herbicides available, but the alternatives are more toxic (including those that are approved for certified organic crops).

Glyphosate based herbicides have been approved for more than 40 years. No other pesticide has been more extensively tested than glyphosate with more than 800 safety studies submitted to regulators. Glyphosate has been approved for use in 160 countries. Glyphosate plays an integral part in the process in which Maryland farmers are achieving their 2025 Water quality improvement plan (WIP) goals. Removing the use of this safe and affordable tool would set the state back 20 years in the movement for water quality improvement.

**MDFB Policy:** We urge keeping all federally labeled crop protection products legal in the state, counties, and municipalities. Furthermore, we believe the use of pesticides should be regulated by available facts, not on emotional issues.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 472**

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Director of Government Relations

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