



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees
Testimony on: HB 857 -- Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody and Reuse
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 22, 2021

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this testimony in support of HB 857, legislation to require manufacturers, purchasers, or owners of synthetic turf and turf infill used on playing fields to report chain of custody on infill from the manufacture to the reuse, recycling, or final disposal of their products.

The legislation would:

- Establish regulation and accountability for the reuse, recycling, or disposal of the component materials of synthetic turf.
- Recommend end-of-life chain of custody certification.
- Address irresponsible disposal – including dumping of synthetic turf material in lower-income communities.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- **Evert synthetic turf field comprises tens of thousands of pounds of chemical-laded plastic and hundreds of thousands of pounds of tire waste or other types of infill.**
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/12/artificial-turf-fields-are-piling-no-recycling-fix/603874/>
- **The accumulation of used synthetic turf material is posing an environmental disaster across Europe and now the United States.**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5o3I7uy4Tk>
- **Synthetic turf companies have not been forthcoming about the disposal of their products, about their willingness to dump the used material without authorization, especially in low-income communities, or about compliance with Guidelines to Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose, and Remove Synthetic Turf Systems established by the Synthetic Turf Council.**
- **The bill would attempt to hold the Maryland government to the promises made to the public to address climate change and would make Maryland an environmental leader on this topic.**

Conclusion

Glen Echo Heights mobilization urges a favorable Committee report on SB 857.