



February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**To: The Honorable Delegate Barve, House Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**Re: HB 472 Agriculture – Use of Glyphosate – Prohibition**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 472, a measure to ban applications of glyphosate-based herbicides in state of Maryland. This bill, if passed, would negatively impact Maryland citizens, homeowners and professional applicators, in their ability to protect property from noxious and invasive weeds. We strongly oppose HB 472 and request an unfavorable vote.

Glyphosate-based herbicides are widely and safely used to control noxious and invasive weeds, some of which can cause allergic reactions, compete with native plant species, destroy vital species habitats and decimate natural ecosystems. These invasive species can be difficult to control and expensive to eradicate. State land managers rely on glyphosate for controlling these plants, such as purple loosestrife, poison ivy and giant hogweed, and other vegetation spread which can degrade critical infrastructure.

In a February 7, 2019 *Bloomberg Law* article, the importance of glyphosate to controlling invasive weeds is discussed: “As it stands, glyphosate is really the best tool we have for fighting invasive plants,” said Brendan Quirion, an invasive species specialist with The Nature Conservancy, the largest conservation advocacy group in the world. The efficient and judicious use of glyphosate-based herbicides protects and extends efforts of conservation and habitat protection.

All pesticides go through an extensive evaluation and registration process by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before they are approved for use. In [January 2020](#), EPA’s Interim Registration Review Decision concluded that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its label. This Decision builds on Glyphosate’s track record of safe and effective use for more than 40 years. A complete and current scientific study and review by the world’s leading regulatory bodies concurs Glyphosate can be used safely and effectively without causing adverse health or environmental impacts.

Additionally, Glyphosate is far less toxic than other alternative herbicides available, both in terms of human exposure and environmental impact. The [2018 Agricultural Health Study](#), the largest epidemiologic study on glyphosate-based herbicides supported by the National Cancer Institute, followed over 50,000 licensed pesticide applicators – the most exposed group - for 20 years (1997-2017) and found no associations between glyphosate use and cancer risk.

Without access to the full range of herbicide options registered by the Environmental Protection Agency, including glyphosate, to treat weed and harmful plant infestations, Maryland homeowners and professional applicators will be at risk of injury when alternative control methods are used, such as mechanical, acetic acid or flaming techniques. On State land, invasive plant and infrastructure maintenance costs will increase.

As the national trade association which represents the companies producing EPA-registered vegetation management products, RISE hopes to serve as a resource to you and other Maryland policymakers involved with Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) legislation. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to share our perspective, we respectfully ask the committee for an unfavorable vote on HB 472.

Sincerely,

**Jon Gaeta**

Director, State Affairs

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)

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