



**Coalition letter in opposition for House Bill 472 – Glyphosate Prohibition**

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

This letter is from a coalition of Maryland agricultural, conservation, green industries, forestry, and business organizations in opposition to **House Bill 472 – Agriculture – Glyphosate - Prohibition**. Glyphosate is a safe, effective, and affordable tool critical to an integrated vegetation management program. Restricting glyphosate use on public or private land, in agriculture, forestry, or turf management puts Maryland’s natural and urban landscapes and conservation efforts at risk.

Glyphosate is used to control invasive, noxious and poisonous weeds, maintain roadways and other critical infrastructure, enable wildland restoration, ensure worker safety, and minimize habitat for rodents and mosquitos that undermine structural integrity of infrastructure and spread human disease.

Glyphosate is an essential tool in the toolbox for Maryland farmers to achieve their Chesapeake Bay conservation and carbon sequestration goals. Using glyphosate to manage weeds enables farmers to plant and manage cover crops while maintaining a no-till system. Nearly 650,000 acres of Maryland farmland currently practices conservation tillage or no-till and Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plan III calls for 425,000 acres of cover crops per year. Without glyphosate, achieving these goals would be nearly impossible.

While there are alternatives to glyphosate, it is important to have it as a tool to combat resistance. Additionally, A [paper](#) co-authored by NC State and Cornell Cooperative Extension concluded that alternatives to glyphosate for weed management are likely to be "less effective, less convenient, and more expensive." Opponents to glyphosate use may argue that it is counter to soil health. [Research](#) conducted at the USDA ARS center in Beltsville, Maryland found that plots treated with glyphosate did not differ from the untreated plots in overall soil microbial community composition and activity.

Glyphosate based herbicides have a long history of use with more than 40 years on the market. When it comes to safety assessments, 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. Since 2015, glyphosate has undergone additional review by independent scientific bodies in Japan, the EU, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Brazil, as well as the US EPA, none of whom have determined it to be a carcinogen.

For these reasons that we respectfully request your **NO** vote on House Bill 472.

Respectfully submitted,

Choptank Electric Cooperative  
CropLife America  
Delmarva Chicken Association  
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association  
Maryland Forests Association  
Maryland Grain Producers Association  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Maryland Association of Green Industries  
Maryland Green Industries Council  
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association  
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit  
Mid-Atlantic Chapter Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

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