



February 22, 2021

STATEMENT OF
THE TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 857
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
STATE OF MARYLAND

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this statement on behalf of the 252 Maryland businesses that are members of the Tire Industry Association (TIA).

The Tire Industry Association is an international non-profit association representing all segments of the tire industry, including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service or use new or retreaded tires, and also those suppliers or individuals who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry. TIA is located in Bowie, MD.

The mission of TIA is to promote tire safety through training and education, to act as the principal advocate in government affairs and to enhance the image and professionalism of the industry so that our member businesses may be more successful. TIA has more than 13,000 members from all 50 states and around the globe. As the industry leader in tire service technician training, TIA has educated more than 160,000 people since 1997. The Tire Industry Association has remained environmentally focused with our Environmental Advisory Council (EAC).

Tire recycling has been a success story in the United States and especially in Maryland. Past initiatives have helped clean up stockpiles. Changing the existing system in the state would hinder advances that have been made in scrap tire recycling.

By 2017 there were less than 50 stockpiles nationwide, as 81.4% of scrap tires were consumed in beneficial end markets. Maryland, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are the 3 states that have cleaned up all scrap tire stockpiles.

TIA believes setting up a chain of custody system for synthetic turf would create unnecessary burdens and requirements when trying to repurpose, recycle, or reuse the product. There is also logistical and tracking issues with such a proposal given that the manufacturer of the synthetic turf is typically different than the manufacturer of the infill and the reuse and recycling options are different for system components.

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We are concerned that the bill would discourage further reuse and recycling technological advancements and successful recycling processes currently taking place in the state.

The history of scrap tire disposal is a great success story. And the number of synthetic turf fields is a major part of that story. Whether it be playground turf, pet and dog turf, indoor sports turf, or athletic fields for all levels of play, almost 62 million used tires are recycled every year for this use. Advantages of artificial turf athletic fields includes all weather utility, versatility, and no growing required.

A 1984 amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Federal law that created the framework for the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste, introduced by (at the time) Maryland Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski stipulated that used oil, tires, batteries, and antifreeze were not to be classified as a hazardous waste.

By mandating this program with additional costs for synthetic turf, the use of synthetic turf in the state of Maryland will decline. Therefore, TIA opposes House Bill 857.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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