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Date: February 1, 2021  
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director  
Re: HB472– Agriculture – Use of Glyphosate - Prohibition - **UNFAVORABLE**

Delmarva Chicken Association (formerly Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.), the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware strongly opposes HB 472 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

HB 472 would prohibit the use of glyphosate on all public or private lands.

Glyphosate is a safe, effective and affordable tool in the integrated vegetation management toolbox. It is used to control invasive, noxious and poisonous weeds, especially within corn, soybean and wheat fields throughout Maryland.

The chicken industry is the largest market for the Maryland grain farmers, purchasing \$1 billion worth of feed ingredients in 2019. They are the third leg within the Delmarva's "three-legged stool" economy and without the use of glyphosate, farmers will suffer yield losses and ultimately suffer financially. This has a direct impact to the chicken industry as we will have to export more grains from other areas.

In addition, Maryland is a leader in conservation tillage and other best management practices that have already shown benefits in meeting Maryland's Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) for the Chesapeake Bay. Prohibiting the use of glyphosate will require farmers to resort to practices from 40 years ago and will likely increase nutrient and sediment loading to the Bay. Not to mention many farmers no longer own the equipment that would be needed to farm as was done so many years ago.

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, we urge an **unfavorable** vote on HB 472.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [porter@dcachicken.com](mailto:porter@dcachicken.com) or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.