



February 22, 2020

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## **HB1025: Pesticides—Carbofuran—Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage**

### **Position: Support: HB1025**

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) asks that the House of Delegates' Environment and Transportation Committee to give a favorable report of HB0236 and move it to the full House of Delegates.

HB1025 will require the collection of all remaining stocks of the pesticide Carbofuran, and banning the possession thereof after January 1, 2024.

Carbofuran was cancelled in 2009, and its use or sale prohibited. Nevertheless, its possession in Maryland remains legal to this day. Stocks of Carbofuran exist in Maryland, and are being used illegally to poison wildlife. For example, one shocking wildlife crime in the state has been the Carbofuran poisoning of over twenty Bald Eagles, our National Symbol, as well as a Great Horned Owl, on the Eastern Shore. Seven eagles were killed in Talbot and Kent Counties between March 1 and April 3, 2019 while feeding on carcasses. Several other eagles were injured but recovered. In February 2016, thirteen eagles were similarly poisoned near Federalsburg. The Great Horned Owl is not a scavenger, so it may have been poisoned by Carbofuran carelessly left out in the open.<sup>1</sup>

Maryland Natural Resources Police and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have concluded these deaths are likely the result of eagles feeding on carcasses of foxes, racoons, and other animals killed by eating bait illegally laced with Carbofuran. Carbofuran could also present a threat to the small population of Golden Eagles that winter on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.<sup>2</sup> Golden Eagles also scavenge carcasses.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Police Seek Information on Eagle, Owl Poisonings: Federal, State Authorities Investigating Use of Banned Pesticide, May 1, 2019, <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/05/01/police-seek-information-on-eagle-owl-poisonings/>

<sup>2</sup> Koppie, Greg, Golden Eagle Wintering Population Discovered on Maryland's Eastern Shore, July 6, 2011, <https://www.fws.gov/fieldnotes/regmap.cfm?arskey=29897>

<sup>3</sup> Center for Conservation Biology, Tracking Golden Eagles in Eastern North America, 2013, <https://ccbbirds.org/what-we-do/research/tracking/tracking-projects/tracking-golden-eagles-eastern-north-america/>

It should be emphasized that both Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,<sup>4</sup> while Bald Eagles also are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, when Carbofuran is found to be the cause of death of eagles and other wildlife, authorities cannot confiscate it, because its possession frustratingly remains legal.

Aside from birds, the neurotoxin Carbofuran, which goes under the trade name of Furadan, threatens human and other wildlife health. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found the very mobile in soils, water soluble, has been found in ground water, and can be slow to degrade.<sup>6</sup>

Clearly continued stocks of Carbofuran constitute a continued threat to birds and other wildlife, as well as humans. HB1025 will bring about the collection and disposal of this toxic substance, and end the threat it poses to our National Symbol, other birds and wildlife, and human health. Please give HB1025 a favorable report and move it to the full House of Delegates.

MOS is a Maryland-based volunteer organization of some 1200 members, with 15 chapters in Maryland. We are devoted to the study and preservation of birds and their habitat.

Sincerely,

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<sup>4</sup> Title 16 USC 703-711 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

<sup>5</sup> Title 16 USC 668a-668d The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

<sup>6</sup> EPA, Pesticide Fact Sheet: Carbofuran, page 3,

<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/91024KLI.txt?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=1981%20Thru%201985&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&UseQField=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5CZYFILES%5CINDEX%20DATA%5C81THRU85%5CTXT%5C00000027%5C91024KLI.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1>

Dead Bald Eagle, Maryland Eastern Shore, photo by Maryland Natural Resources Police.<sup>7</sup>



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<sup>7</sup> Hedgpeth, Dana, Mystery remains in case of 13 dead bald eagles on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Washington Post, August 22, 2016, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/mystery-remains-in-case-of-13-dead-bald-eagles-on-marylands-eastern-shore/2016/08/22/f51ab538-6875-11e6-ba32-5a4bf5aad4fa\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.5f5631d5d29b&itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_43](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/mystery-remains-in-case-of-13-dead-bald-eagles-on-marylands-eastern-shore/2016/08/22/f51ab538-6875-11e6-ba32-5a4bf5aad4fa_story.html?utm_term=.5f5631d5d29b&itid=lk_inline_manual_43)