



Testimony: **HB 1025 Carbofuran - Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage**
Position: **Favorable**
Committee: **House Environment and Transportation Committee**
Hearing Date: **February 24, 2021**

Safe Skies Maryland is a statewide conservation initiative with members representing a diverse and active body of citizens seeking to advance sustainability. We advocate for birds and other wildlife and their relationship with human quality of life.

Carbofuran is being used illegally, so stockpiles need to be eliminated. This bill would require the removal of stocks of the already banned pesticide, carbofuran (commercially known as Furadan®), from deteriorating old stockpiles where it threatens people, pets, domestic animals, and wildlife, including bald eagles. By federal and state law, this pesticide is not allowed to be used or sold, but it remains legal in Maryland to own or store. This bill would make it illegal to own the chemical, resulting in its removal and proper disposal to protect our communities and ecosystems.

EPA prohibited the use of carbofuran in 2009. While the law does not make ownership illegal, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges people with old stocks to come forward to arrange proper disposal. Stored carbofuran is hazardous even on the shelf, where thin paper packaging deteriorates and puts domestic animals, and farm workers, and unsuspecting owners at risk.

Carbofuran is killing bald eagles, other wildlife, and endangering citizens. A single grain of carbofuran granular pesticide can kill a songbird. In the last 12 years, at least 30 bald eagles have been killed by this pesticide in Maryland. When an eagle poisoning is investigated by officials, they often can determine the cause of death, but cannot confiscate any carbofuran they find because possession is still legal. The threat of carbofuran poisoning is not limited to eagles, but extends to pets, other domestic animals, people, and wildlife. A powerful neurotoxin, carbofuran poses a danger to human health and wildlife in the natural environment and on our shelves. According to the EPA, carbofuran is highly mobile in soils, dissolves in water, and has been commonly found in groundwater. Continued storage could lead to leaks into the soil and subsequently to waterways and groundwater.

HB 1024 would prohibit a person from possessing or storing any quantity of carbofuran after January 1, 2021, and, thus, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Natural Resources, or a Natural Resources police officer to seize the pesticide for enforcement purposes.

We are asking for a favorable report on HB 1025.

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Safe Skies Maryland