

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0131 Requiring a Producer of Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill sold or distributed in the State to establish a system to track the chain of custody of the synthetic turf and turf infill to report certain information to the Department; requiring the Department to develop and maintain a website that displays the certain chain of custody information and making a violation of the Act a civil offense.

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 2, 2022

The Environmental Justice Ministry of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports this tracking of the chain of custody of the Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill in the state of Maryland as a first step prior to the complete banning of this cancerous plastic covering that is almost impossible to completely and cleanly dispose of and that is so harmful to children and others playing or working on this surface. The bill would in its title and definition “require a producer of synthetic turf and turf infill sold or distributed in the State to establish a system to track the chain of custody of the synthetic turf and turf infill and report the chain of custody to the Department of the Environment; requiring a certain owner of synthetic turf and turf infill to report certain information to the Department; requiring the Department to develop and maintain a website that displays certain chain of custody information; and making a violation of the Act a civil offense”.

Our faith holds the right of every individual to have clean air, clean water and a clean environment because of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Synthetic turf is primarily plastic substance, which after repeated use, becomes very fine grains which can cause overheating, absorption into the body and extremely harmful emissions to users. HB 0131 is a beginning step that will lead to the eventual banning of this artificial surface throughout the state of Maryland.

Please support this very important bill for the children and people of Maryland.

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry Team

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church