



February 2, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Re: Senate Bill 268 – Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment**

Position: *Oppose*

Chairman Pinsky & Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), we express our *opposition* for Senate Bill 268 – Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment. Senate Bill 268 would transfer from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment, the regulation of pesticides, plant diseases, and mosquitos.

MASCD, incorporated in 1956, promotes practical and effective soil, water, and natural resource related programs throughout all of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. MASCD supports the responsible practice of pesticide application and management by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Through a coordinated approach, the Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management effectively administers numerous programs that educate applicators on the proper management of pests and the safe application and disposal of pesticides. Needlessly transferring the oversight of this program to the Department of Environment would not only be costly but would set back program policies and structures put in place by our federal partners and other state agencies.

Our Association remains an avid supporter of our agricultural stakeholders here in Maryland and believe that the Maryland Department of Agriculture continues to successfully manage this program which encourages an *unfavorable* report of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Nelson, Executive Director  
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts