

# Montgomery County Farm Bureau

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February 9, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Montgomery County Farm Bureau (MCFB)

Re: Opposition to SB-268 – Pesticide Regulation -Transfer to Department of the Environment

On behalf of the >250 MCFB farm families and allied members, we oppose any effort to transfer regulation of pesticides from Maryland's Department of Agriculture (MDA) to Department of Environment (MDE). We recognize employees of MDA as the experts in all things agricultural. Why transfer responsibility of agricultural programs to MDE employees who lack scientific knowledge and experiences of agricultural practices? This proposal is a giant step backward, and SB-268 should never see the light of day.

MCFB supports Maryland's Farm Bureau policy which states, "We strongly oppose consolidation or transfer of any of MDA's current programs, functions, or authorities to any other department. We strongly support the transfer of all ag-related programs, functions and authorities from other departments to MDA." The voices for agriculture should remain with farmers, not environmental activists.

MCFB opposes SB-268!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie W. Luther". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Lonnie W. Luther, President

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Jamison". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Jamison, Chairman

Legislative Affairs Committee

Cc: MCFB Board Members (16)

MFB President, Wayne Stafford

MFB Executive Director, John Torres