

"Representing the Agricultural Producers of Montgomery County"

Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs January 31, 2022

RE: Montgomery Agricultural Producers (MAP) Written Testimony for SB268 Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to the Department of the Environment

On behalf of the Montgomery Agricultural Producers (MAP), please accept this correspondence as written testimony regarding Proposed SB268.

The agricultural community has come to depend on and recognized that the Department of Agriculture (MDA) has always supported our community with their expertise in the proper use and management of pesticides. Their staff has the knowledge and training to help us be efficient and environmentally sound in our practices with the use of pesticides.

As farmers we work closely with MDA in the ever-increasing battle of managing weed and pest control on our farms. As landowners, protecting the soil on our farms is our top priority. We depend on MDA to help guide us through the seasonal challenges we all face. We know they have the knowledgeable staff and expertise to continue this partnership for the years to come. Their guidance is critical for the future of farming in our great state.

Therefore, we ask for an unfavorable vote on SB268

Sincerely,

Robert Cissel Director Montgomery Agricultural Producers 301-775-8978 bobcissel50@gmail.com

cc; Montgomery County Delegation