



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

26737 Radio Station Way, Ste. G.

Leonardtown, MD 20650

(240) 309-4183

[www.mdfarmbureau.com/st-marys](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/st-marys)

WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947

**Senate Bill 268**

Pesticide Regulation - Transfer to  
Department of the Environment

**Unfavorable**

January 31, 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 268, Pesticide Regulation—Transfer to Department of the Environment, Hearing date February 2, 2022.

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau opposes transferring the regulation of pesticides, plant diseases, and mosquitos in the State from the Department of Agriculture (MDA) to the Department of the Environment (MDE).

The Pesticide Regulation Section of MDA administers Maryland's Pesticide Applicator's Law, approves training courses in the handling, storage and use of pesticides, and conducts examinations to determine that pesticide applicators are competent to follow prescribed pest control practices. The Department also enforces federal laws on the sale and use of pesticides, and investigates pesticide accidents or incidents and consumer complaints on pesticide misuse. Passage of Senate Bill 268 will cause uncertainty in the agricultural industry and unnecessarily add to the regulatory burdens faced by farmers. Accordingly, St. Mary's County Farm Bureau opposes passage of Senate Bill 268.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. Raley, Jr.

President

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau