THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING
COMMISSION

POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: **HB 131 – Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody**

Position: **SUPPORT**   **Date:**   January 17, 2022

Contact: Mike Riley, Director, Montgomery County Parks Department
Bill Tyler, Director, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

What The Bill Does: This bill would enable the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to collect reliable information about the lifecycle of synthetic turf or turf infill materials in the state by requiring owners to report when and how they recycle or dispose of those materials.

Why We Support: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission") is responsible for managing 10 existing synthetic turf fields serving the everyday needs of thousands of active families in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. In this context, the managers of our park and recreation operations anticipate an ongoing process of adding new fields and restoring old ones to keep up with a growing community demand.

At the same time, our agency leaders recognize competing community concerns exist about the long-term environmental impact when synthetic materials enter the disposal or recycling streams. As an agency founded in part to pursue environmental stewardship, the Commission supports responsible reuse and disposal of turf materials with a focus on ensuring recycling. This legislation would establish transparency and public accountability by mandating disclosure to MDE, coupled with appropriate fines for field owners who fail to disclose their disposal activities.

Our team plans to achieve compliance by modifying our current procurement process to require the necessary information regarding disposal practices and reporting required by this bill.

The Commission fully supports this bill and urges a favorable report.

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Office of the General Counsel
221 Prince George Street, First Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410.263.1930 tel.

6611 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 200, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
301.454.1670 tel.