



**To:** Members of the House Committee on Environment and Transportation

**From:** Riley Titus, CropLife America and Jon Gaeta, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)

**Date:** February 9, 2022

**RE:** House Bill 387 – Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to the Department of Environment

**Position:** OPPOSE

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Chair Barve, and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Transportation:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony about HB 387, which would transfer authority of pesticides in Maryland from the Department of Agriculture (MDA) to the Department of Environment (MDE) and require these agencies to consult with the Department of Health (DOH) to include provisions for prohibiting and restricting pesticides at the state level. We respectfully oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable vote.

We support and promote science-based policy and regulatory processes necessary in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level. In addition to the extensive review and approval process U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) applies to pesticides, MDA also reviews pesticides before they are registered or used in the state. This dual layer of oversight and enforcement helps ensure safe and proper pesticide use across Maryland through state registration of pesticides, certification of pesticide applicators, and enforcement and research activities. MDA registration and regulation of pesticides also promotes consistency with federal regulation and scientific standards, particularly those for human health and safety and the environment.

State Lead Agencies (SLAs) that house pesticide programs across the states are primarily housed in Departments of Agriculture. They have delegated authority from EPA under the Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act for pesticide regulation in the state. These SLAs develop, implement, and communicate on sound public policies and programs related to the sale, use, transport, and disposal of pesticides. Federal and state cooperation of pesticide policies and programs protect human health and the environment, while acknowledging the important benefits of pesticide use including consumer protection and the continued ability to secure high quality food, feed, and fiber.

This bill would undermine the expertise and authority of MDA, delay pesticide registration and applicator training and certification, and pave a pathway for undermining federal expertise and standards by restricting access to pesticide products and tools important to farmers and public health. There is an existing process in place. Should concerns arise over a pesticide, the EPA or MDA has the expertise and resources to review and direct as necessary.

**Representing the Crop Protection Industry**

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Sincerely,

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CropLife America (CLA) represents the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of crop protection products in the United States. CLA member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection products used by American farmers.

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders engaged with specialty pesticides and fertilizers used by professionals and consumers.