



February 9, 2022

Supporting HB387: Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to the Department of the Environment

Greetings House Environment and Transportation Committee,

MOMs Organic Market has 10 stores in Maryland. We would like to express our **strong support for the HB387: Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Dept. of the Environment Bill.**

MOM's Purpose is *to protect and restore the environment*. Since 2014, we have held an annual "Save the Dandelions" campaign to help raise awareness of the effects that toxic pesticides have on our environment, wildlife, pollinators, and health. This bill encompasses everything we believe in.

In Maryland, [millions of pounds of pesticides are used annually](#). According to the US EPA, pesticides can impact human health. Pesticides have been linked to adverse impacts on our respiratory, developmental, neurological, reproductive, and endocrine systems, and cancer.

Pesticides are especially of concern when it comes to impacting the developing fetus and young children **including preterm birth, low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, pediatric cancers, neurobehavioral and cognitive deficits, and asthma**. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "the evidence is especially strong linking certain pesticide exposure with pediatric cancers and permanent neurological damage."

And our pollinators, and therefore our food supply is adversely impacted by pesticides. **More than half of Maryland's honeybee population died in 2020-21**. Other pollinators including wild bees, insects, and birds are also in serious decline due to pesticide impacts.

And then there is the Chesapeake Bay. A growing body of research underscores that a majority of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters are impaired by chemical contaminants including pesticides, impacting the health of all ecosystem life, according to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program.

We are poisoning people and the planet. We can stop this. It is imperative that we pass the Maryland Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Dept. of the Environment Bill, which shifts the authority to regulate pesticides from MDA to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment—the agency with scientific expertise charged with the oversight of toxic substances—with advice and counsel from the Maryland Depts. of Health and Agriculture.

Please stand with MOMs and support HB387 to transfer Pesticide Regulation.

Thank you,
Christine Koetz
MOM's Organic Market
Chief Brand Officer