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February 2, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB268 - Pesticide Regulation - Transfer to Department of the Environment**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 268. This bill would transfer the regulation of pesticides, plant diseases, and mosquitos in the State from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment.

The unintended consequences of this bill are great. For example, the state chemist would be one of the staff that would be moved to MDE. However, that chemist also regulates the feed ingredients that are used in livestock feed. If this bill were to pass, a feed mill would have to get some of the permit process completed at MDA and then must work with MDE to complete the state chemist's approval. This would be very time consuming, costly and could limit many livestock feeds from being made in the time needed to keep the livestock fed. There are many unintended consequences if this bill were to pass and would far outweigh any

MDFB Policy: We strongly oppose consolidation or transfer of any of MDA's current programs, functions, or authorities to any other department. We strongly support the transfer of all ag-related programs, functions and authorities from other departments to MDA.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 268

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson".

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396