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**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton Maryland 21921

February 4, 2022

The Hon. Kumar P. Barve  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 387 Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment  
Letter of Opposition

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously opposes HB 387 Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on February 9, 2022.

It is our understanding that this legislation will transfer the responsibilities for pesticide regulations, plant disease control and mosquito control from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment.

The Cecil County Farm Bureau, our most active agricultural related group in the county, is very concerned that this change will split up oversight over these very important area as well as overwhelm the Department of Environment, which is already heavily involved in other environmental issues. Pesticides, plant disease, and mosquitos are intrinsic to Maryland agricultural interests. The Council agrees with the Farm Bureau that the Department of Agriculture should retain these responsibilities.

We also believe that moving these responsibilities to the Department of the Environment will result in duplication of resources and staff that will not serve our State's interests.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee consider an unfavorable report on HB 387.

Sincerely;

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President