



TESTIMONY FOR HB0387
Pesticide Regulation - Transfer to Department of the Environment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0387 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The fact that pesticide regulation is managed by the Department of Agriculture is the very reason that we have had to endure pesticides like Chlorpyrifos for so many years after it was determined that the pesticide harmed infants and killed bees. Farmers loved it, so who actually cared about the harm?

The Department of the Environment, which is tasked with ensuring that our environment is healthy, would be a far better agency to manage decisions about pesticides. They should work in conjunction with the Department of Health to ensure that dangerous pesticides are appropriately controlled, as this legislation requires. Additionally, there should be some mechanism for enforcement, and this bill contains fines and penalties for violations of the pesticide regulations.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.