



50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410-841-5772 • Fax: 410-841-5987 • TTY: 800-735-2258
Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov
Website: www.rural.maryland.gov
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

John Hartline, Chair

Testimony in Opposition of
House Bill 387 -Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment
House Environment and Transportation Committee
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The Rural Maryland Council **opposes** House Bill 387 -Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment. The bill seeks to transfer the regulation of pesticides, plant diseases, and mosquitos in the State from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment. By removing these regulations from the Department of Agriculture, it will consequently remove the Department that is familiar with these regulations, and those in the agricultural workforce. This transfer will also result in unnecessary expenses.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has been handling the regulation of pesticides for many years and has gained the knowledge and expertise to control and oversee these regulations. One of the reasons this expertise is important, is that the Department of Agriculture understands the process of using these pesticides, and the farmers and agricultural workers that use them. If pesticides are regulated in the wrong manner, it will result in those who use pesticides to switch to similar chemicals for pesticide use that will have negative effects on the environment. While the bill has positive intention by wanting to mitigate and reduce the damages done to the environment by pesticide use, the opposite outcome could come from the attempts to do so.

Additionally, the transfer of these regulations from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment would also result in additional spending from the process of moving materials and personal from the Departments.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests that you vote unfavorably on House Bill 387 Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

“A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland”