



**House Environment & Transportation Committee
House Bill 299: Environment –
*Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody***

Position: SUPPORT

Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair
House Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 15, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House E&T Committee:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Field Manager Association (MASFMA) (*formerly known as MASTMA*) and the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter in support of *House Bill 299: Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody*.

The Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA) is a non-profit organization that is composed of sports turf field managers and workers from Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia. As MASFMA members, we partner together to promote education, teamwork, networking, and best practices among our peers and within the Sports Turf Management Industry.

We have partnered with Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) this year to bring a more unified front from all aspects of our industry. MTC represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports-turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers.

Over the last couple of years, MASFMA has created and distributed a [Best Management Practices \(BMP\) manual](#). One of the focuses of the BMP manual is to highlight industry specific practices that ensure the safety of the community, and that environment remains the top priority in our line of work. It covers topics to help both managers and workers keep fields safe and playable for athletes of all ages, from children to professionals.

We believe that this bill is in the best interest of the environment and will provide accountability for proper disposal of the materials related to synthetic fields. Many of the products used synthetic fields are non-biodegradable and should be disposed of properly and correctly. With the current shift to an organic infill mix, fields are becoming more sustainable; however, the main part of the field is still plastic and should be recycled or disposed of in a way that is best for the environment.

For these reasons, we respectfully seek your consideration and support in providing a *favorable* report to House Bill 299.

Thank you,

Robert Navolis

Robert Navolis – Treasurer – MASFMA

Patrick Coakley

Patrick Coakley – Vice President - MTC