



February 13, 2023

Maryland General Assembly  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Written Testimony in opposition of: House Bill No. 299:**

Submitted by:  
Melanie Taylor  
President and CEO  
Synthetic Turf Council (STC)  
2331 Rock Spring Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Melanie Taylor and on behalf of the Synthetic Turf Council (STC), I am writing in opposition to House Bill No. 299 as we discuss the primary reasons below.

As a 501(c)6 trade association representing the synthetic turf industry, the STC office is headquartered in Harford County, Forest Hill, Maryland. Founded in 2002, the STC represents over 200 members and promotes industry excellence through voluntary guidelines, certifications, and other learning platforms. Our membership includes representatives from every stage of installing and maintaining a turf field, including builders, design professionals, civil engineers, testing labs, maintenance providers, manufacturers, suppliers, installation contractors, infill and shock pad suppliers and specialty service companies.

The STC has three primary issues with House Bill 299:

1. **No minimum threshold** – As written, the 2023 bill does not have a minimum as part of the definition of "synthetic turf," which the 2022 bill did.
2. **Vague definition of “custodian”** – As written, a custodian includes "a person that: removes, transports, or disposes of synthetic turf". A clearer definition of the owner would help to narrow the responsible parties so that when a new field is installed, only one party reports it one time.
3. **Quick implementation date** – As written, beginning January 1, 2024 the custodian shall report to MDE. We believe that an extended implementation would provide enough time for us to educate and inform members about a new state law.



The STC is committed to protecting the environment and currently provides the latest guidance and resources on the best ways to reuse and/or recycle each component of a synthetic turf field. We are happy to provide counsel on such bills that would further codify established industry guidelines that effectively encourage sustainability and proper end-of-life handling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melanie Taylor  
President and CEO  
Synthetic Turf Council (STC)  
[www.syntheticurfCouncil.org](http://www.syntheticurfCouncil.org)