



Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: ***Senate Bill 532/House Bill 468: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland – SUPPORT***

**February 21, 2024**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Senate E3 Committee:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Manager Association (MASFMA) and the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter in support of Senate Bill 532/House Bill 468: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

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. Once again, MASFMA has 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.

As written, Senate Bill 532/House Bill 468, establishes an exclusive cross-section of various state stakeholders to study and recommend best practices and guidelines for lithium-ion battery safety in the State of Maryland. This commission will be tasked with developing legislative and regulatory policies relating to the reuse/recycling, training, education, and general means to enhance public safety of these batteries.

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.

For both MASFMA and MTC, we recognize the growing environmental, economic, and safety concerns that continue to escalate regarding the use of these batteries throughout our daily lives and professions. As our industry transitions away from traditional fossil-fuel dependency, due to either government policy or company philosophy, we have the inherent duty and responsibility to ensure that we are advancing these changes in a manner that is protecting both our environment as well as the general public.

This session, MASFMA and MTC testified that Annapolis is nearing a tipping point of outpacing current (and experimental) technologies to meet new environmental goals for the State. For instance, in our profession, the batteries from the electric equipment are both costly to make and there is no real disposal system in place for all the batteries outside of putting them in the landfill which can lead to them cracking and leaking and further contaminating the ground water.

While it is laudable for Maryland to advance more sustainable energy methods, we cannot afford to ignore the potential dangers and environmental risks these alternatives may produce. The establishment of this new commission is the first step forward for the State to ensure it's moving in the direction that is considering all of these factors.

For these reasons we at MASFMA and MTC support Senate Bill 532/House Bill 468 and respectfully request this committee to give this bill a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you,



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Jason Bowers, President - MASFMA



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Patrick Coakley – Vice President - MTC