



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 14, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Opposition of SB932 - Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in opposition to SB932 Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat. This proposed legislation establishes pesticide use restrictions and pollinator habitat management on state-owned property in Maryland.

This legislation may not have a significant immediate impact on those currently leasing state land for agriculture. However, it sets a concerning precedent regarding pesticide regulations within the state. By restricting and eliminating pesticide use on state-owned land except for specific, necessary circumstances, this policy could serve as a steppingstone toward a broader, more comprehensive ban on pesticide use across the entire state.

If such restrictions continue to expand, farmers and agricultural businesses may face increased challenges in managing pests and maintaining crop yields. A broader ban on pesticide use could lead to higher production costs, lower efficiency, and potential impacts on food supply and pricing. While environmental and public health concerns are important considerations, it is crucial to find a balanced approach that supports both sustainability and the agricultural industry's ability to thrive.

Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully opposes SB932 and urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions