



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

Re: Senate Bill 249/House Bill 114: Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions – SUPPORT

January 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Feldman and Senate E3 Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter in support of Senate Bill 249/ House Bill 114: Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) is a non-profit organization that represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers.

As written, SB249/ HB114 would establish requirements for the commercial application of general use pesticides, the commercial application of restricted use pesticides (RUPs), and the private application of restricted use pesticides. This departmental bill would also require a certified private applicator to ensure that certain individuals working under the certified applicator's supervision meet certain requirements.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has well established regulations pertaining to the application of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) and those permitted to use them. Moreover, the EPA created protections for applicators (non-certified) through mandated training before such use of restricted pesticides may be allowed. Various training options are available for these specific applicators, including the completion of a training program approved in that State. This legislation would essentially codify into statute the Department's EPA-approved certification plan.

MTC firmly believes that safety and education are essential when these types of pesticides are applied, regardless of whether it's private or commercially done. These federal and state mechanisms were established for not only the protection of those using them, but for prevention of accidental and/or negligent misuse of these pesticides that could potentially have consequential health risks to applicator(s) (and the general public), while increasing the likelihood of harmful impacts to the environment.

It is for these reasons that MTC supports the passage of SB249/HB114 and humbly seeks this committee for a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

Brandon Sands

Brandon Sands, *President*
Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC)