



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 553/ House Bill 833: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland – Reestablishment – Favorable with an Amendment

February 24, 2026

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) and Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA), we write this letter in support of the re-establishment of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland, through the passage of Senate Bill 553/ House Bill 833.

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. 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. Once again, MASFMA has partnered with Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) this year to bring a more unified front from all aspects of our industry.

As written, Senate Bill 533/House Bill 833, re-establishes an inclusive 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 recommendations regarding best practices, standards, and guidance relating to the reuse/recycling, training, education, and general means to enhance public safety of these batteries.

For both MTC and MASFMA, 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 our employees and the general public.

In prior sessions, MTC and MASFMA have testified in Annapolis that the State 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 purchase 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 re-establishment of this new commission is another positive step forward for the State to ensure it's moving in a direction that considers all of these factors and various industries that are impacted by this technology. For these reasons, we humbly request a modest amendment to the bill to include a member of our industry be represented on the Commission.

MTC and MASFMA support Senate Bill 553/House Bill 833 and respectfully request this committee to give this bill a FAVORABLE report which includes our friendly amendment (see below).

Thank you,



Logan Freeman
President, MTC



Clint Steele
President, MASFMA

Proposed Amendment Language:

(1) Page 2, line 28, strike “and” and insert, “(xvii) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND TURFGRASS COUNCIL; AND”