

February 1, 2026

House Bill 0091 – Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions
Environment and Transportation Committee

Opposed

Turfgrass Producers of Maryland
Jonathan Middleton, President

This letter is submitted on behalf of **Turfgrass Producers of Maryland**, representing approximately 20,000 acres of actively farmed turfgrass production across the state. We respectfully provide this statement **in opposition to House Bill 0091**, which proposes restrictions on the sale and use of neonicotinoid insecticides in Maryland agriculture.

We support efforts to protect pollinators and promote environmental health, and Maryland turfgrass producers remain committed to responsible pesticide stewardship and integrated pest management practices.

However, we are concerned that the broad restrictions proposed under House Bill 0091 will create serious unintended impacts on sod and turfgrass production, while offering limited benefit in our specific agricultural system.

Turfgrass is not a pollinator-dependent crop, and commercial sod fields do not serve as a forage environment for honeybees. Neonicotinoids in turf production are primarily used to control destructive below-ground pests such as white grubs and root-feeding insects. These products must be watered directly into the soil immediately after application, greatly reducing the potential for pollinator exposure. This use pattern differs significantly from applications made to flowering crops.

Neonicotinoids remain one of the most effective and targeted tools available for pest management in turfgrass. Without them, producers will be forced toward alternative insecticides that are significantly more expensive, may require additional applications, and could increase overall chemical use rather than reduce it. These added costs place further strain on already narrow farm margins and threaten the viability of Maryland specialty crop producers.

For these reasons, **Turfgrass Producers of Maryland strongly opposes House Bill 0091** and urges that neonicotinoid products remain available for responsible agricultural use in turfgrass production.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important issue. Turfgrass Producers of Maryland remain committed to environmental responsibility and compliance with all applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations.