

February 26, 2020

Maryland General Assembly  
Environment and Transportation Committee, Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Written Testimony in opposition of House Bill No. 1032:

Submitted by:  
Troy Wilson  
Vice President  
Reclaimed Rubber and Plastics, Inc.  
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Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Troy Wilson, and on behalf of Reclaimed Rubber and Plastics (RRP), I am writing in opposition to House Bill No. 1032. In addition to removing synthetic turf playing surfaces, RRP operates a repurposing/recycling facility in Pennsylvania. RRP currently repurposes/recycles more than 90 percent of the synthetic turf and infill that is delivered to its facility. Based on our ongoing research and development, we anticipate that number will increase to 98 percent. Our company has grown from 4 employees four years ago to 25 today, and we expect that number to double within the next two years. Our company is unique in the industry and we present an alternative to disposing of used synthetic turf in landfills. The vast number of fields being replaced just this year will generate more than tens of thousands of tons of material that, absent recycling such as ours, will end up in landfills.

Prohibiting tires to be recycled in synthetic turf athletic fields will hurt our environment and Maryland field owners. There are an estimated 275 million cars on the road in the United States, which equates to 1.1 billion tires. Every year, over 30 million tires are recycled for use in synthetic turf fields. **Each synthetic turf football field diverts between 18,000 to 20,000 tires from being dumped illegally, dumped into landfills or incinerated as fuel.**<sup>1</sup> End-of-life passenger tires and truck and bus radial tires are beneficially recycled into infill on synthetic turf athletic fields and overall are recovered at higher rates than aluminum cans, glass, cardboard, and paper.

What's more, recycled rubber is scientifically proven safe material. More than 110 technical studies and reports have examined various health and human safety questions relating to the use of recycled rubber as an aftermarket product, including its use as infill in synthetic turf sports fields. The majority of the studies were conducted by independent academic, federal and state government organizations, and involved chemical engineers, toxicologists, epidemiologists, chemists, biologists, and other medical professionals. They estimated whether toxins are present at any level of concern, whether the human body can access them, and if exposure over time increases risk. **All have confirmed there is very little to no risk for people playing on synthetic turf fields with recycled rubber infill.**

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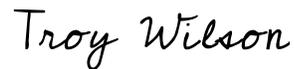
<sup>1</sup> Entire Synthetic Turf Fields Now Being Recycled, Athletic Business, <https://www.athleticbusiness.com/Stadium-Arena/entire-synthetic-turf-fields-now-being-recycled.html>

In July 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its crumb rubber characterization report, which summarized results on a range of metals and organic chemicals which the EPA found in their study of tire crumb rubber, confirming what we already knew: crumb rubber is made of the same components found in everyday consumer products, and hospital and classroom floors.<sup>2</sup> In the dozens of substances tested, it found low and below-detection limits emissions consistent with previous studies. Also in July 2019, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) released four reports on potential human exposure to crumb rubber.<sup>3</sup> The reports examined the chemical and physical characterization of crumb rubber and conducted *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies on various routes of exposure from crumb rubber, observing no evidence of health problems in the studies.

RRP remains dedicated to the continuous improvement of the performance and environmental impact of synthetic turf systems throughout their lifecycles and are happy to assist in clarifying the uncertainties or questions that you may have concerning synthetic turf systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Troy Wilson



Vice President

Reclaimed Rubber and Plastics, Inc.

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<sup>2</sup> Summary of EPA and NTP Studies on Crumb Rubber, [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/research/research\\_summary\\_of\\_recycled.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/research/research_summary_of_recycled.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.