



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

962 Wayne Ave • Suite 610 • Silver Spring, MD 20910

HB 0857 – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody

Economic Matters

February 24, 2021

Timothy Whitehouse, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. (PEER)

Favorable

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility urges a favorable reading on HB 0857. The bill would require manufacturers and owners of synthetic turf and turf infill to report chain of custody of the turf and infill for reuse, recycling, or final disposal. Establishing a chain of custody would help ensure artificial turf is disposed of properly. Establishing a chain of custody is something the industry has often said they support, although they have repeatedly misled the public about their disposal practices.

There are currently no regulations for the reuse, recycling, or disposal of synthetic turf components. According to reporting, old synthetic turf materials may be landfilled, incinerated, reused, repurposed, or dumped in communities. Every used synthetic turf field contains tens of thousands of pounds of chemical-laden plastic and hundreds of thousands of pounds of infill (usually tire waste, or alternative infills, and silica sand).

A PEER investigation identified Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a toxic class of toxic chemicals known as forever chemicals, in the turf blades and backing in some artificial turf. As a result, children can be exposed to these chemicals, and there is a potential for PFAS to leach off the fields into groundwater, surface water, and eventually, drinking water.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable reading of HR 0857

---