



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0857  
ENVIRONMENT – SYNTHETIC TURF AND TURF INFILL – CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND  
REUSE**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Lehman

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0857 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Synthetic turf is an often-overlooked source of toxicity. It contains toxic metals, such as cadmium, lead and arsenic, in addition to phthalates, which may negatively affect some organs, including reproductive organs. Various substances, including old tires and silica sand, are used to make artificial grass so levels of toxins in artificial turf differ from one manufacturer to the next manufacturer.

Additionally, synthetic turf can negatively affect the environment in many ways. Hosing down artificial turf creates runoff, transferring its elements, such as chromium, to the ground and water supply. When it's time to dispose of artificial turf, it can take decades to break down fully in a landfill. Habitat erosion is another side effect of artificial grass because it does not provide a home or food for insects, birds and other animals.

In Maryland, synthetic turf is not regulated in any way. Often, it is thrown out when it is no longer useful and it sits in landfills. We don't even have information about how much synthetic turf is in Maryland and how it is being disposed of. This bill would seek to manage and report on the chain of custody from the manufacturer, then the supplier, to the end-user, and finally through disposal. This information is necessary to understand exactly how much synthetic turf is in use and how it is disposed of.

Our members see this as a required first step to understand what additional requirements must be placed on this toxic substance. We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.