



HB131 – Environment – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody

Testimony before

House Environment & Transportation Committee

January 19, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Carol O’Keeffe, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB131**, which will improve transparency around the life cycle of synthetic turf. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate Del. Lehman’s leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

While artificial turf has some environmental benefits in that it requires no water or fertilizer, it is made of old, shredded tires that have a limited lifespan of eight to ten years and poses significant environmental hazards as it degrades. HB 131 is the first step in achieving accountability in the disposal of degraded artificial turf by establishing a “chain of custody” requirement that achieves cradle to grave tracking of the manufacture, installation, use, reuse, recycling and final disposal of synthetic turf and infill. The data must be provided to the Department of Environment which is required to establish a website to display the data. The bill also establishes penalties.

The requirement of HB131 will achieve transparency to assure proper disposal of materials made of plastic or mostly plastic substances that pose a significant threat to our planet and to our collective health and wellbeing. The requirements are non-burdensome and recognize that producers of synthetic turf and infill are in the best position to provide the information for tracking system. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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