



Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Senator Brian Feldman and other Committee Members:

I am Jerry Garson writing on behalf of The Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. (MCCF) which represents about 150,000 Montgomery County residents. The MCCF considered bill HB299. Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody. The Civic Federation unanimously voted in favor the legislation for the following reasons:

This legislation would require the Maryland Department of Environment to establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf sports or playing fields installed in Maryland. These fields contain dangerous materials. The basic point is we just want to know where these things went and the materials were disposed properly. This is about transparency.

The Fiscal and Policy Note indicates only a \$52,400 cost for Fiscal Year 2024 and only \$13,800 for Fiscal Year 2025.

HB 131 passed the House of Delegates by a vote of 103 to 31 on March 10, 2023.

The mission of the MCCF is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Since its founding in 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers, both elected and appointed.

The Civic Federation is a not-for-profit, county-wide umbrella group designed to promote cooperation, education and effectiveness of civic and community associations in Montgomery County.

It addresses a wide range of concerns in transportation, land use, environment, education, budget and finance, public safety, and ethics. With its strength of numbers and thoroughness of its deliberations, the Federation influences county policy and balances the activities of vested county pressure groups.

Thank you for considering our views.

Jerry Garson