House Bill 1237

Pesticide Applications – Subscription Contract Requirements and Registry Establishment

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

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From: Karrington Anderson & Charlotte Fleckenstein

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1237. This bill establishes the Residential Pollinator Protection and Neighbor Notification Registry within the Department of Agriculture for individuals to receive advance notification of pesticide applications on neighboring properties.

This bill imposes an unworkable administrative framework that would disrupt local government operations. As drafted, county operations would be subject to expanded notification obligations, increased record-keeping and reporting, and heightened documentation standards when applying pesticide treatments. These requirements go well beyond current regulatory safeguards and create overlapping compliance obligations without clear evidence of improved health and safety outcomes.

Counties already adhere to comprehensive and rigorous safety regulations that strictly regulate the purchase, handling, application, and recordkeeping of pesticide products used on public lands. These include advance planning requirements, applicator licensing and certification standards, product label compliance, and public notification through prominently posted signage at treatment sites.

This bill would require local governments to revise standard operating procedures, update compliance protocols, and adjust service schedules. Because pesticide application is a recurring and ongoing function in county park systems, roadside maintenance, pest control programs, and public facilities management, these impacts will not be limited to one-time implementation costs but represent compounding, ongoing operational expenditures.

Many local public facilities span hundreds of acres and share boundaries with dozens, or even hundreds, of private properties. HB 1237 would require county applicators to make individual contact with every registered individual via telephone, in-person meetings, or hand-delivered notices on the day before or day of application. In practice, this mandate would divert personnel away from core service delivery and delay necessary maintenance activities.

HB 1237 introduces a duplicative and administratively burdensome notification and documentation framework that would significantly hinder the ability of local governments to maintain public lands, control invasive species, protect public health from pests, and preserve critical infrastructure in a timely and efficient manner. For these reasons, MACo respectfully urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1237.