

October 21, 2019 CB51-2019

Howard County Council,

On behalf of the Ho. Co. Farm Bureau, we would like to commend the county for being willing to protect, enhance and restore the natural environment of the county owned properties. The agricultural community has always been and always will be proactive by limiting the use of pesticide and herbicides and have always used them in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. We also have used "Integrated Pest Management" plans on our properties for quite some time now. We have been trained in accordance with the regulations of both pesticides and herbicides and at least someone, if not everyone from each agricultural operation has a "Private Applicators" license, which is renewed every 2 years after the latest information has been provided to us. With this being said, we hope in the future that unnecessary restrictions to the Ag Community will not be necessary, since we have already met the requirements in the county's policy.

Thank You !!!! Howie Feaga, president Ho Co. Farm Bureau

One other foot note, line 4 on page 2, Glyphosate is a herbicide, not a pesticide, just to be clear

Howard County Council Public Hearing  
October 21, 2019  
George Howard Building  
7:00 pm

CB51-2019  
In Favor with amendments

Meagan Braganca on behalf of Our Revolution Howard County  
3720 Valerie Carol Court  
Ellicott City

In light of the recent passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings, I just want to say that when I lobbied him in 2013- we talked about a number of different environmental issues- pesticides included- Atrazine to be specific (we can tackle that next). But as we were leaving the meeting, he turned to us & said "Don't ever give up. Because if you give up, they win"

So here's to doing what's right for the citizens of Howard County, and here's to NOT letting the chemical companies dictate what the citizens of Howard County should and should not be exposed to.

The goal of the new less toxic IPM policy is to minimize usage of pesticides, and to shift away from a product-based approach towards a land management system that utilizes natural methods as the first measured and monitored tactic. It is also to encourage land managers to change their focus from a product based approach to one that focuses on working with natural systems, and feeding the soil to build resiliency in the landscape.

The policy written by Josh Feldmark and his staff is good, but we'd like to make the following suggestions to strengthen its original intent:

1. More definitions should be included in the policy to clarify what qualifies as terms needed in order to understand and adhere to the policy's goals including, but not limited to: least toxic pesticide, approved organic product lists, synthetic fertilizer, toxic pesticide. For example, **toxic pesticide** *should include any product with a WARNING or HAZARD label on the bottle, developmental toxicants, carcinogens, neurologic cholinesterase inhibitors, groundwater contaminants, nervous system toxicants, endocrine disruptors, any chemical known to be toxic to wildlife, or any chemical with data gaps or missing information in its EPA registration documents.*
2. In the Sustainable Land and Building Pesticide Management section part (d), the policy, instructs that the county "Considers and weighs the alternative implications of a potential loss of a specific species if pesticides are not

applied versus the impacts of spraying." There aren't many clear examples where chemical pesticides should automatically be a default when talking about impacts on certain species. And part (e)" Permits only targeted and controlled treatment in the smallest dose necessary when deemed essential, and never a blanket spray application." This is an endorsement of product spraying- again, not the intention of the policy at all

**Recommended action to remedy this:** Strike both letters d & e from this section

Permitting least toxic use only after monitoring and established guidelines is good. But it should be more clear that the other techniques must be attempted first before applying a toxic pesticide.

Instead, we should be clearly defining the following elements:

- Integrated/Whole Systems/ Ecological Approach
- Understanding pest ecology
- Minimizing (Unnecessary) Pesticide Use
- Discussion of a tiered approach before control strategies
- Exhausting non-chemical control strategies before the use of least toxic pesticides
- Repudiation of routine/ spray applications and prophylactic treatments

### **3. Page 3**

(b) PROCEDURES

2 Licensing and Training

(b) "Employees are ~~also strongly encouraged~~ **required** to attend sustainable sites, landscaping or similar trainings..."

(you don't want to set the policy up to fail)

### **4. Page 3**

(b) PROCEDURES

5. Neonicotinoids, Glyphosate, and Chlorpyrifos

"Exemptions for the use of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, for other uses, may be granted by ~~the Director of Recreation & Parks or Director of Public Works~~ **the appointed Pollinator Committee** if a request is...." This committee was announced at the Bee City announcement last month. This would be their critical role as a committee of resident peers knowledgeable on pollinators and pesticides to weigh the need for these most toxic pesticides. These committee structures have been put into place in other jurisdictions for this purpose and has enjoyed a large amount of success.

5. Page 4

(c) REPORTING

"The Directors of the Departments of Recreation & Parks and Public Works will each present an annual report to the County Executive (due April 22 for the previous calendar year). **The full report will be published on the county website. It shall** contains the following...."

(Transparency is always key in public policy. And in this effort towards pesticide reduction, it would be great to see the county's progress and success. Also, this aligns well with the recently rolled-out Ho Co Dash. This is a very transparent-centric and data-centric administration and with pesticide dangers covered recently in the news, residents can at least be aware of what they are being exposed to.)

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Other Notes:

A Short History of Glyphosate

In 1961: Glyphosate was patented in the U.S. as a Descaling and Chelating Agent by the Stauffer Chemical Co.

1970: Monsanto scientist John Franz discovers that Glyphosate can kill weeds (most descaling or industrial chemicals probably can)

By 1974 Monsanto has slapped a weedkilling patent on glyphosate and packaged it up in Roundup. It goes on the market to the public.

1985: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gets around to testing glyphosate and classifies it as a Class C Carcinogen. (see first attachment)

A Class C Carcinogen has "Suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential"

Between 1985-1989 Monsanto is busy. It develops and perfects the genetically modified gene potential. At the same time, Monsanto pressures the EPA to change its classification

It works.

In 1991: EPA changes classification of glyphosate from Class C "Suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential" to Class E which suggests "evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans"

In 1996 28 million pounds of glyphosate is sprayed on crops in the US

By 2007, Glyphosate usage is more than double that of the next most heavily sprayed pesticide –180 million pounds annually

By 2014, 240 million pounds

2015: The World Health Organization's cancer agency IARC classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A) after a series of several alarming studies

2016: University of California San Francisco (UCSF) discovers glyphosate in 93% of urine samples collected across U.S.

In fact, alarming levels of glyphosate contamination has been found in popular American foods

General Mills' Cheerios and

Honey Nut Cheerios,

Kellogg's Corn Flakes,

Frosted Flakes

Doritos Cool Ranch

Ritz Crackers

Stacy's Simply Naked Pita Chips, as well as many others....

2018: The roundup lawsuits begin.

Three high-profile, high rewards court cases have been won by plaintiffs against Monsanto over Roundup

Internal Monsanto and EPA communications, found during discovery of these cases, reveal the reality of the 30+ year glyphosate cover-up

The internal company e-mails show how Monsanto has colluded with the EPA to play down glyphosate safety concerns, admitted that Roundup / glyphosate could possibly cause cancer and other harm to human health and also attempted to silence the work of scientists that had released studies pointing to its toxicity

There are now over 14,000 plaintiffs in the US that have filed suit against Monsanto due to Roundup exposure. Bayer is anticipating upwards of 45,000.

Jess,

Since I left the Agency with cancer, I have studied the tumor process extensively and I have some mechanism comments which may be very valuable to CARC based on my decades of pathology experience. I'll pick one chemical to demonstrate my points.

Glyphosate was originally designed as a chelating agent and I strongly believe that is the identical process involved in its tumor formation, which is highly supported by the literature.

- Chelators inhibit apoptosis, the process by which our bodies kill tumor cells
- Chelators are endocrine disruptors, involved in tumorigenesis
- Glyphosate induces lymphocyte proliferation
- Glyphosate induces free radical formation
- Chelators inhibit free radical scavenging enzymes requiring Zn, Mn or Cu for activity (i.e. SODs)
- Chelators bind zinc, necessary for immune system function
- Glyphosate is genotoxic, a key cancer mechanism
- Chelators inhibit DNA repair enzymes requiring metal cofactors
- Chelators bind Ca, Zn, Mg, etc to make foods deficient for these essential nutrients
- Chelators bind calcium necessary for calcineurin-mediated immune response
- Chelators often damage the kidneys or pancreas, as glyphosate does, a mechanism to tumor formation
- Kidney/pancreas damage can lead to clinical chemistry changes to favor tumor growth
- Glyphosate kills bacteria in the gut and the gastrointestinal system is 80% of the immune system
- Chelators suppress the immune system making the body susceptible to tumors

Previously, CARC concluded that glyphosate was a "possible human carcinogen". The kidney pathology in the animal studies would lead to tumors with other mechanisms listed above. Any one of these mechanisms alone listed can cause tumors, but glyphosate causes all of them simultaneously. It is essentially certain that glyphosate causes cancer. With all of the evidence listed above, the CARC category should be changed to "probable human carcinogen". Blood cells are most exposed to chelators, if any study shows proliferation of lymphocytes, then that is confirmatory that glyphosate is a carcinogen.

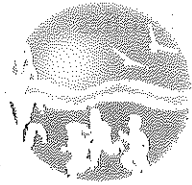
Jess, you and I have argued many times on CARC. You often argued about topics outside of your knowledge, which is unethical. Your trivial MS degree from 1971 Nebraska is far outdated, thus CARC science is 10 years behind the literature in mechanisms. For once in your life, listen to me and don't play your political conniving games with the science to favor the registrants. For once do the right thing and don't make decisions based on how it affects your bonus. You and Anna Lowit intimidated staff on CARC and changed HARC and HASPOC final reports to favor industry. Chelators clearly disrupt calcium signaling, a key signaling pathway in all cells and mediates tumor progression. Greg Ackerman is supposed to be our expert on mechanisms, but he never mentioned any of these concepts at CARC and when I tried to discuss it with him he put me off. Is Greg playing your political games as well, incompetent or does he have some conflict of interest of some kind? Your Nebraska colleague took industry funding, he clearly has a conflict of interest. Just promise me not to ever let Anna on the CARC committee, her decisions don't make rational sense. If anyone in OPP is taking bribes, it is her.

I have cancer and I don't want these serious issues in HED to go unaddressed before I go to my grave. I have done my duty.

Marion Copley  
March 4, 2013

E. Classification of Glyphosate:

In accordance with EPA proposed guidelines (FR of Nov. 23, 1984) the panel has classified Glyphosate as a Category C oncogen.



Maryland  
Pesticide  
Education  
Network

1501 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
[info@mdpestnet.org](mailto:info@mdpestnet.org) 410.849.3909

October 20, 2019

**In support of Howard County CB51-2019:** Prohibiting the use of pesticides on any County controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds unless the use complies with County policy; and generally related to pesticide/herbicide use on County property.

**Submitted by** Ruth Berlin, Executive Director, Maryland Pesticide Education Network

Dear Council Chair Mercer-Rigby and Council members,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maryland Pesticide Education Network (MPEN), a non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce toxic pesticide use and its impacts on the health of people, wildlife, our food supply, waterways, and on climate change.

We applaud the effort to 1) establish a county-wide prioritized Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach on county land that focuses on non-chemical pest prevention and intervention, and stipulating that least-toxic pesticides may only be used as a last resort, and 2) restrict the use of certain highly toxic, widely used pesticides including the brain-harming pesticide chlorpyrifos, the cancer-linked pesticide glyphosate, and neonicotinoid (neonics) pesticides, which are linked to the alarming decline of pollinators in our state and around the globe. In 1998 and 1999, the Maryland Pesticide Network, predecessor to MPEN, played an instrumental role in the passage of nationally ground-breaking laws—the IPM in Schools laws, in order to minimize the use of pesticides and the risk of exposure to human health for students, faculty, staff and parents. These laws required Maryland public schools to implement IPM, whereby non-chemical practices and products are the first line of defense in dealing with pests and weeds and *only* when non-toxic options are exhausted or deemed unreasonable, may pesticides be considered. The 1998 law was expanded in 1999 beyond indoor applications to include school grounds.

Of great concern since then, is an ever-growing body of research that has underscored the adverse impacts of pesticides on the health of people, pollinators and our food supply, wildlife and marine life. Of greatest concern currently amongst experts, are the three pesticides restricted in Bill# 51 – chlorpyrifos, glyphosate, and neonicotinoid pesticides.



**Chlorpyrifos:** EPA scientists had determined, after a 20-year risk assessment process, that the insecticide chlorpyrifos harms pregnant women and young children – *at any detectable level of exposure* – and was deemed an unacceptable risk. Chlorpyrifos has been proven to cause brain damage to the unborn and to children, causing loss of working memory, delayed



motor development, reduced IQ, childhood cancers, attention deficit disorders, and it is linked to autism. The CDC ranked Maryland as having the second highest autism rate in the nation. Both EPA and USGS have found that chlorpyrifos endangers wildlife and aquatic life. EPA identifies chlorpyrifos as deadly to bees, second only to neonicotinoids.

Prior to the Trump Administration, EPA was poised to implement a national ban on chlorpyrifos. However, the Trump-appointed EPA administrator refused to enact the ban. This led Maryland and other states to sue EPA in federal court. Eventually, the full 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upheld its previous 3-judge panel ruling that EPA must issue a final ruling on whether to ban chlorpyrifos. On July 18, 2019, the EPA responded, stating it will *not* ban chlorpyrifos. National advocacy groups intend to sue again and ask the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals to expedite the case. The Trump administration is expected to continue its efforts to stall the process and will likely appeal to the Supreme Court, which would tie up the case for years to come. EPA's actions allow for continued exposures to babies in utero, young children, and farmworkers, as well as the public through their consumption of a variety of foods which contain chlorpyrifos residues. While there is a state effort to ban chlorpyrifos in 2020, which may or may not pass, it behooves our county governments to protect their residents from exposure to this pesticide, which all too often results in life-long adverse impacts.

**Glyphosate:** The herbicide glyphosate, most commonly known and applied as “RoundUp,” is the most widely used pesticide in the world. It is applied to lawns and gardens, parks and playgrounds, farm fields and food crops, and then runs with rainfall into the waterways and our drinking water.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, after reviewing numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies that link it to a wide range of cancers,<sup>2</sup> the UN World Health Organization’s International Agency on Research on Cancer (IARC) determined that glyphosate is a “probable carcinogen to humans.” These impacts include pancreatic cancer, skin cancers, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and endocrine disruption, as well as non-cancer illnesses including liver and kidney damage, genetic damage, decreased sperm count and developmental abnormalities. In April 2019, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (a US federal public health agency) released its draft Toxicological Profile for Glyphosate, which supports the earlier cancer assessment of the IARC.<sup>3</sup> By 2017, glyphosate was listed as a cancer-causing chemical under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, requiring cancer warning labels be placed on glyphosate products in California.<sup>4</sup>

Glyphosate is also damaging to wildlife. Honeybees exposed to glyphosate lose beneficial intestinal bacteria and become more susceptible to infection and death from harmful bacteria.<sup>5</sup> Researchers found that young worker bees exposed to glyphosate died more often when later exposed to a common bacterium. Another major impact is the destruction of wildflowers on which pollinators depend.<sup>6</sup> Glyphosate use directly impacts a variety of nontarget animals, including insects, earthworms, and fish, and indirectly impacts birds and small mammals. RoundUp kills beneficial insects, including parasitoid wasps, lacewings and ladybugs. Repeated applications of glyphosate significantly affect the growth and survival of earthworms. Environmental factors, such as high sedimentation, increases in temperature and pH levels increase the toxicity of RoundUp, especially to young fish.<sup>7</sup> Researchers have linked changes in metabolism, growth, behavior, and reproduction of certain fishes, mollusks and insects with exposure to glyphosate-containing herbicides<sup>8</sup> It causes water contamination, soil quality degradation and is toxic to

<sup>1</sup> Natural Resources Defense Council: <https://on.nrdc.org/2XRI0kg>

<sup>2</sup> “Glyphosate,” IARC Monographs–112.

<sup>3</sup> Toxicological Profile for Glyphosate, ATSDR, 2019, pps. 2-5: <http://bit.ly/2xqBMVE>

<sup>4</sup> OEHHA. Notice of Intent to List: Tetrachlorvinphos, Parathion, Malathion, Glyphosate. September 2015: <http://bit.ly/2WaYSeL>

<sup>5</sup> Motta et al. Glyphosate perturbs the gut microbiota of honeybees. 2018. PNAS. <http://bit.ly/2ZKF7wG>

<sup>6</sup> Monsanto’s global weed killer harms honeybees, research finds. The Guardian 09.24.2018. <http://bit.ly/2ULRqFq>

<sup>7</sup> Beyond Pesticides: <http://bit.ly/2Yp8aXP>

<sup>8</sup> <http://bit.ly/2SrRFGb>

soil microorganisms and aquatic organisms,” according to a 2017 Cornell study<sup>9</sup>.

Municipal governments across the USA are banning or severely restricting glyphosate use in their municipal operations, in parks and recreation areas, in and around schools and around bodies of water. Four local governments in Maryland and nearly 100 municipalities in other states are protecting their residents from glyphosate, with many more are being added to a growing list every month. Moreover, nearly 30 other nations are taking similar actions.

**Neonicotinoids:** The class of systemic insecticides known as neonicotinoids, or “neonics,” have been proven to harm bees and pollinators by interfering with metabolic, reproductive and cognitive functioning, even at the most minute “sub lethal” exposures, as attested to by a meta-analysis of more than 1,100 peer reviewed studies. This poisoning puts our food security at risk because one in three bites of food requires adequate pollination.

Restricting the use of neonics on county land is a crucial next step in halting catastrophic pollinator death in our state. In response to Maryland losing half of its honeybee populations, the MPEN-led Smart on Pesticides Campaign (SOPC), comprised of 96 organizations and businesses, was instrumental in passing two nationally ground-breaking state laws. The first, the 2016 Maryland Pollinator Protection Act required products containing neonics be removed from store shelves for consumer home garden use, and restricting application only by certified applicators. In 2017, SOPC led passage of a law restricting neonicotinoids from state lands designated as Pollinator Habitat.

Howard County’s adoption of Bill #51 would provide safe habitat for all types of pollinators—honeybees, butterflies, other insects, birds and animals. This bill would also protect Maryland’s aquatic life, which is so crucial to survival of our Chesapeake Bay. Because neonics are water-soluble, and much of the chemical runs off into streams, rivers and the Bay, they are responsible for the destruction of our aquatic food web, killing the tiniest microorganisms and up the food chain, which fisheries feed upon. Neonics also kill molting blue crabs.

**Safer alternatives** exist, as exemplified by farmers who practice sustainable, organic, and regenerative farming techniques, by organic land care companies, and the public, who opt for pesticide-free practices and non-chemical products. Our websites, MdPestNet.org and GoOrganicMd.org provide information on such practices.

We urge Howard County Council to lead the way as a model county for prioritized IPM in Maryland by banning chlorpyrifos and restricting glyphosate and neonicotinoids, and join other cities, counties and jurisdictions that have adopted similar protections and demonstrated that safe, effective alternatives can successfully be used to protect residents, wildlife and our Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Thank you.

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<sup>9</sup><https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2017/06/aristideglyphosate>

October 21, 2019

**CB51-2019: Prohibiting the use of pesticides on any County controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds unless the use complies with County policy; and generally related to pesticide/herbicide use on County property**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Council Chair Mercer-Rigby and Members of the Council,

The undersigned groups represent diverse interests throughout Howard County that support CB51-2019 to reduce the use of particularly harmful pesticides on county controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds. This bill prohibits or strictly limits the application of chlorpyrifos, neonicotinoids, and glyphosate to protect human health and pollinators.

Our pollinators are in decline due to a myriad of issues, including: loss of habitat, disease, climate change, and the widespread use of pesticides. Combined with increasing pollinator habitat, CB51-2019 seeks to provide safe and healthy places for pollinators in Howard County to feed.

**Integrated Pest Management**

Establishing a county-wide prioritized Integrated Pest Management approach is a beneficial step to reduce harm. Focusing on non-chemical pest prevention and intervention, and adhering to a hierarchy so the least-toxic pesticides are used goes a long way to maintaining safe environments for people and pollinators.

**Restricting Highly Toxic Pesticides**

Chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids are highly toxic pesticides that have severe adverse impacts on people, pollinators, and other animals. Glyphosate is an herbicide that has severe impacts on invertebrates and fish, and may be associated with certain cancers.

Chlorpyrifos has been banned for indoor use for years, due to its high level of risk for human health disorders. It is particularly dangerous for young children and pregnant women at any detectable level of exposure. In the unborn and children it is associated with developmental delays and damage, including reduced IQ, attention deficit disorder, and autism. Aside from its human health risks, chlorpyrifos is also the second-most toxic pesticide to bees, behind neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids have been banned for residential use in Maryland since the passage of the Pollinator Protection Act in 2016. This pesticide interferes with metabolic, reproductive, and cognitive functions of pollinators and is linked to the rapid decline of both honey and native bee

populations. It is also associated with finch poisonings and weight loss in migrating sparrows. Neonicotinoids can be present in sub-lethal doses in the seeds that birds eat. Even if the dose is sub-lethal, it causes rapid weight loss which slows migration significantly. In a recent study, control birds completed migration in half a day, while birds that ate seeds with low-dose neonicotinoids took three days and high-dose took four.<sup>1</sup> Pollinators, including bees and birds, are vital to the reproduction of food crops and other plants that we consume and enjoy.

Glyphosate is an herbicide also known as "Round Up." In 2015, the UN World Health Organization's International Agency on Research on Cancer determined that it is a "probable carcinogen to humans." In 2019, the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released its own draft Toxicological Profile for Glyphosate which affirmed the WHO's assessment. For pollinators, glyphosate impacts beneficial intestinal bacteria, leading honeybees to be more vulnerable to disease. Glyphosate also demolishes the habitats that bees rely on. For non-pollinators, glyphosate is associated with negative impacts on earthworms, fish, aquatic invertebrates, and other insects.

We thank the county executive for introducing this legislation and urge the county council to pass CB51-2019 to protect pollinators visiting the habitats on county controlled, managed, and owned lands.

Signed,

Emily Ranson  
Maryland Program Coordinator  
Clean Water Action  
[eranson@cleanwater.org](mailto:eranson@cleanwater.org)  
443-562-2832

Mark Southerland, Ph.D  
Legislative Director  
Safe Skies Maryland

Kim Coble  
Executive Director  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters

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<sup>1</sup>Eng, Margaret, Bridget Stutchbury, Christy Morrissey. "A neonicotinoid insecticide reduces fueling and delays migration in songbirds." *Science*. 13 Sep 2019: 1177-1180. Accessed 12 Oct 2019: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6458/1177>



# HCCA

## Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

*The Voice Of The People of Howard County*

Date: October 21, 2019

Subject: HCCA Testimony – CB-51-2019. Strong Support. Requesting Strengthening Amendments

My name is Alan Schneider. I am a Board member and officer of Howard County Citizens Association. I am authorized to testify for HCCA. HCCA thanks Chief Executive Calvin Ball and the County Council for proposing CB-51. However, CB-51 needs to be much stronger.

**The goal** is to protect the health and safety of vulnerable children and elderly, and “to protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment”. **That’s a longtime goal.**

1. CB-51 enacts “policy”. However, much more is needed now for many reasons. A few are:
  - a. There is very little, if any, effective change, including no change in the following:
  - b. There is no penalty.
  - c. There is no enforcement.
  - d. If there was enforcement, such as a “fine”, the fine authorized by Charter is only \$1,000.
  
2. Assume responsibility for protecting **more than** only the vulnerable people on county land. The County’s Police Powers are virtually unlimited. (25A of the Annotated Code of Maryland.) **Excluding “private property” is unreasonable.** More is needed to avoid irreparable damage going forward, before it’s too late to take action later.  
Enact Amendments to expand CB-51 to apply to private use of harmful chemicals on community property including **HOA property, property adjacent to schools, daycares and all property approved for “over 55” housing.** (Documentation is available regarding State Registered Pesticide Sensitive Residents in a Howard County HOA who have been harmed by repeated pesticide treatments despite notifications to the company applying pesticides, and noncompliance with State regulations. Local laws are needed to bolster limited State resources.)
  - a. Howard County’s population grew from 61,911 in 1970 when the Charter was effective, to a population of 323,196 in 2018. A huge growth during pesticide expansion.
  - b. Toxic pesticides have grown in number, the ease of application, and wider usage.
  - c. A growing population and wider pesticide use have increased cancer and other medical afflictions.
  
3. Add amendments to protect Howard County’s health and Quality of Life. Remember that income from increased population (as measured by inadequate and insufficient APFO calculations) is not covering future hospital growth, nor police and the cost of the expansion of other social programs. Howard County had 78,000 individuals going to our Emergency Room last year, provided services to approximately 200,000, admitted or observed over 21,000 patients, and provided outreach to over 30,000 people. Plan ahead to avoid preventable increases in hospital admissions.

Thank you,

Alan Schneider

HCCA Board Member and Secretary

9462 Farewell Rd  
Columbia, MD 21045  
10/21/19

Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Council members,

I know I am among very bright, well-informed individuals. So I am sure we are all aware that we are experiencing the 6th mass extinction. [1] An extinction that is man-made brought on by our unprecedented selfishness of billowing greenhouse gas into the atmosphere as if there is no tomorrow. Literally, everyday sadder and grimmer news are giving us a preview into our near future if we do not change our ways immediately.

The expected loss of species: our beloved State bird is at risk,[2] loss of land: Marshall Islands has declared a national climate crisis due to rising seas,[3] our water: Siberian lakes are boiling with methane bubbles on a scale never seen before [4] and our health-early death,[5] as well as the health of the unborn: pollution leads birth defects, premature births and learning disabilities. [6]

The book "Drawdown" is considered the world's leading resource for climate solutions.[7] There are 100 solutions, but due to decades of inaction, we now need to do every single one.

We are in a Climate Emergency. We need to be acting with the urgency and the intensity of fighting a war. We do not have the luxury of a moratorium on any bill that would limit in any way a powerful climate solution. As Bill McKibben stated, "Climate change is our final exam to see if the big brain was a good idea and if it is connected to a heart big enough to act. We have had ample warnings from scientists around the world."

Every bill, every action, must be viewed through the lens of the climate crisis. Now is time to act. Now is time to recognize the severity of this climate crisis. The Columbia Association is acting on this existential threat. The unanimously passed a Climate Emergency Declaration. I hope the County Council will do the same.

I oppose CB 55. It is not responding to the actions needed in a Climate Emergency.

I support CB 51 because as a nurse, I do not believe in exposing developing brains to neurotoxins[8] especially when there are safe alternatives.[9] Whenever dealing with pesticides we must always look at the safest option and look at the long term impacts.

I also support CR 134. This resolution will remove the subliminal messaging which shouts "My school is better than your school" so we can celebrate that all Howard County schools bring gifts to their community.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Pat Hersey  
443-538-5995

[1] <https://www.businessinsider.com/signs-of-6th-mass-extinction-2019-3>

[2] <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/10/weather/north-american-bird-extinction-audubon-weir-wxc/index.html>

[3] <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/465422-marshall-islands-declares-national-climate-crisis>

[4] <https://www.iflscience.com/environment/seas-boiling-with-methane-on-scale-never-before-seen-reported-in-siberia/>

[5] <https://www.livescience.com/64535-climate-change-health-deaths.html>

[6] <https://www.marchofdimes.org/pregnancy/air-pollution.aspx>

[7] <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions>

[8] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17981626>

[9] <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/alternatives/factsheets/alts%20to%20chlorpyrifos.pdf>