



March 21, 2012

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Environmental Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1912

RE: HB 167 Commercial Feed – Arsenic Prohibition - **Oppose**

Dear Delegate McIntosh:

HB 167 would prohibit a person from using, selling or distributing for use or sale within the state any commercial feed intended for use as poultry feed that contains Roxarsone or any other additive that contains arsenic. Under current law, Roxarsone is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in poultry to kill a microscopic parasite in the digestive system of chickens that keeps birds from absorbing feed as well as they should. Without treatment, the parasite can lead to higher nutrient levels in chicken manure and cause growth issues for the bird.

As a safety precaution, the FDA requires discontinued use of the product at least 5 days before the bird is processed for use in the food system. This bill adopts standards that are not supported by numerous product reviews conducted regularly by the FDA. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill because it is not supported by science and because food additives and livestock feed additives should continue to be regulated at the national level and by sound science.

For these reasons, we ask that your committee give HB 167 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Joseph M. Getty
Delegate Susan W. Krebs