



March 21, 2012

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 207 Commercial Feed – Arsenic Prohibition - **Oppose**

Dear Senator Conway:

SB 207 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 SB 207 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

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