

**PAT YOUNG**  
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Baltimore County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

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Oversight Subcommittee on Personnel

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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**HB 619 Environment - Use of Fire-Fighting Foam Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Prohibition**

Honorable Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

I am happy to introduce House Bill 619 Environment - Use of Fire-Fighting Foam Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Prohibition. This bill prohibits the use of fire-fighting foam containing PFAs and it directs the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct a study on the use of PFAs in food packaging in Maryland.

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAs) are highly fluorinated industrial chemicals that have been linked to serious illnesses including; testicular, kidney, liver and pancreatic cancer; reproductive problems; and, low birth weights as well as weakened immunity amongst children. Furthermore, these chemicals remain in our bodies for years and rarely break down in the environment - which is why PFAs are often referred to as “forever chemicals.”

In response to this nationwide crisis, many states are taking action to protect their citizens from these chemicals. Several states have enacted lower limits on the PFA amount allowed in water than is currently required by the EPA; Washington and Maine have banned PFAs in food packaging; at least five states have banned the use of fire-fighting foam containing PFAs and California is the first state to require utilities to test tap water for PFAs and inform their customers. The Federal Government has also begun the process of addressing this problem by implementing a phase out of PFAs at military installations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 619.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pat Young' in a cursive script.

Pat Young, 44B