February 18, 2025
Committee: Education, Energy & Environment
Testimony on: SB345 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions
Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jack Solomon, I am the Research Director for Maryland Pesticide Education Network. I have a master's degree in Geography and Environmental Science, which I received from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2024. For the past 6 months, I have been working on the long-term **PFAS Blood Serum and exposure case study, *Prevalence of Per-and-Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAS) Within the Blood of Individuals* that we are collaborating on with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.** Our study seeks to serve as a pilot study on the prevalence of 45 PFAS chemicals throughout Maryland. Out of the available data from participants, we have found that PFAS is an endemic problem across all of Maryland, with the majority of the participants having total PFAS levels above the recommended limit of under 2 ng/mL.[1]

Geographically, higher levels of PFAS were found within central, capital, and southern Maryland regions and decreased moving eastward - though every single person on the Eastern Shore was still above the limit of 2 ng/mL PFAS in their blood serum. The only two individuals with low PFAS were found in Montgomery and Cecil County, but both are outliers in the dataset, and every other participant in Montgomery County tested above the limit. This suggests that PFAS is already a systemic issue across the state, which means limiting further exposure is vital.

The below map (see: page 2) is a choropleth map of PFAS Pesticide use in terms of pounds across each county, according to the 2022 MDA Pesticide Survey[2]**. While there are issues with the data in the Pesticide Survey (Being purely voluntary, not including Baltimore City, and listing only the top 10 pesticides within each county makes it difficult to draw conclusions from), pesticide use of pesticides with PFAS active ingredients was more heavily reported in central, capital, and southern Maryland - overlapping with the results found in our participant study**. This suggests that, in addition to the 45 PFAS we tested for, there is a significant danger of further exposure to the PFAS pesticides we did not test for, driving these already dangerous levels even higher.

As this is a problem across the entire state, lowering exposure to PFAS in any way we can is necessary for the health of Marylanders - for this reason, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB386.

Sincerely,
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(see map and table next page)

1 PFAS Testing and Concentrations to Inform Clinical Care of Exposed Patients - Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up - NCBI Bookshelf

2 https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Maryland/Publications/Pesticide/2022-MD-Pesticide.pdf

Fig 1) Map of Reported PFAS Pesticide Use & in PFAS found in Participant Blood Serum across Maryland

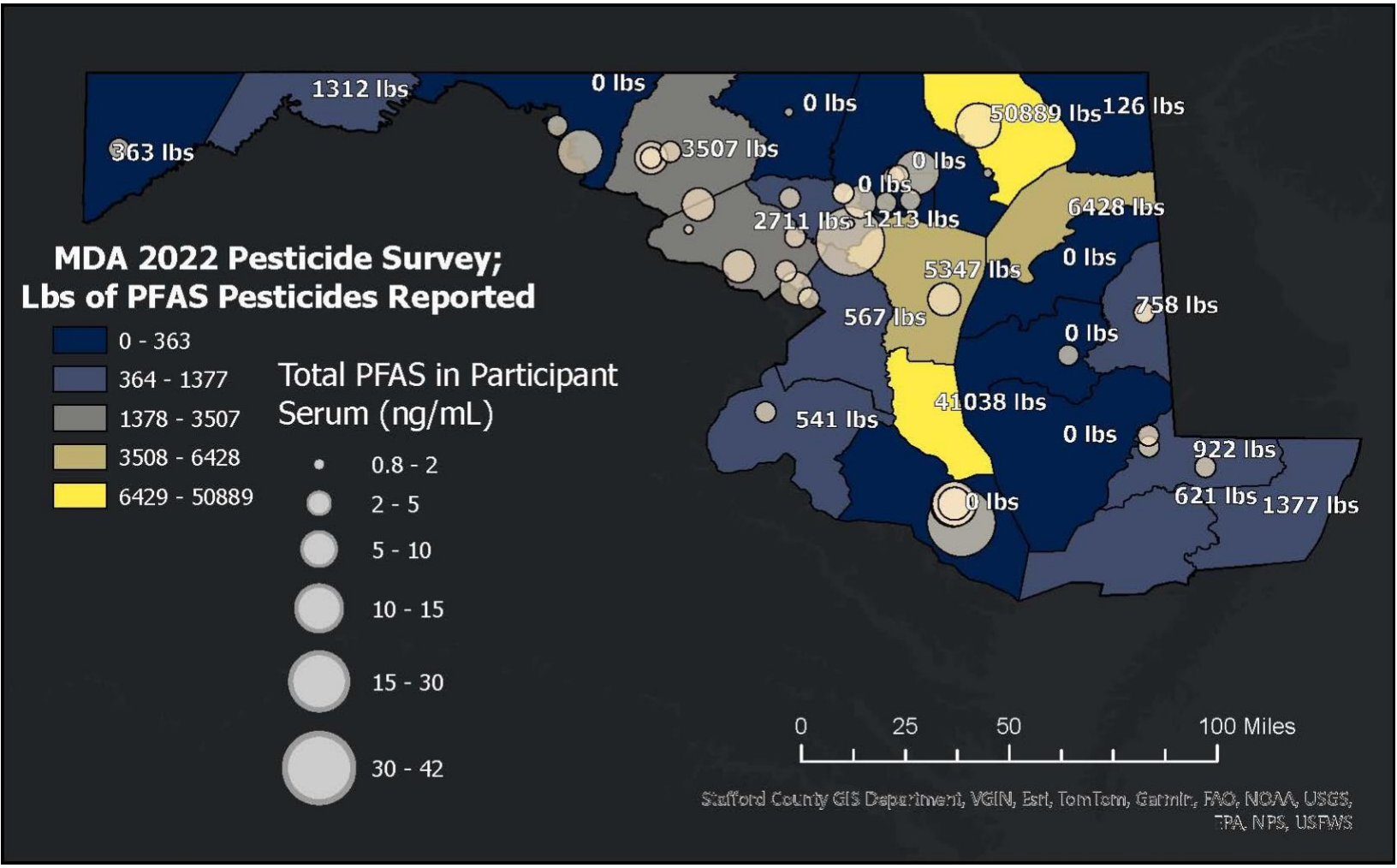

Fig 2) Breakdown of Reported PFAS Pesticide Use Per County, according to the 2022 MDA Survey

County	Dithiopyr	Fipronil	Bifenthrin	Prodiamine	Trifluralin	Indoxacarb	Pyroxa-sulfone	Novaluron	Fluazinam	lamba-cyhalothrin	Total PFAS
Allegany	1312										1312
Anne Arundel	187	299	264							4597	5347
Baltimore											0
Calvert			853	989						39196	41038
Caroline		32	726								758
Carroll											0

Cecil										126	126
Charles			541								541
Dorchester											0
Frederick					3507						3507
Garrett			363								363
Harford		50,209		680							50889
Howard			177			1036					1213
Kent			764				764			4900	6428
Montgomery		1358			1353						2711
Prince George's		359		208							567
Queen Anne's											0
Somerset			406							215	621
St Mary's										3903	3903
Talbot											0
Washington											0
Wicomico			325					597			922
Worcester			876				353		148		1377