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BILL NO.: **HB 619**

TITLE: Environment - Use of Fire-Fighting Foam Containing
Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Prohibition

SPONSOR: Delegate Young

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 12, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** 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 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for training purposes. Violations would result in a civil penalty of up to \$500 for the first offense, and up to \$1000 for subsequent offenses.

According to the CDC, exposure to PFAS may interfere with the body’s natural hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system, and increase the risk of some cancers. As it currently stands, a majority of Americans have PFAS in their bloodstream. Firefighting foams are known to contain PFAS. When used, the foams introduce PFAS into underground or nearby water systems, contaminating our environment and poisoning our residents. By banning the use of these foams for training purposes, we can limit its introduction into the water system.

This bill is one of Baltimore County’s top legislative priorities this session for a simple reason: PFAS are in our waters right now. They have been detected in enormous quantities in the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Beach. We now ask the State to prioritize this essential legislation as well. We cannot afford to let PFAS levels rise more than they already have.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 619. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.