

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

www.msfa.org



Joel C. McCrea

2nd Vice President
17 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Office 410-974-2222
Cell 410-592-7759
jmccrea@msfa.org

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 619 – Environment – Use of Firefighting Foam Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Prohibition

Dear Madam Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill 619 sponsored by Delegate P. Young. Without getting technical, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries, including firefighting foams, since the 1940s. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and the human body, meaning they do not break down easily and can accumulate over time. There is evidence that consistent exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects, such as: increased cholesterol levels, decreased fertility, increased risk of cancer, and other adverse health effects in humans.

House Bill 619 will prohibit, on or after October 1, 2021, the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS substances for firefighting training, other than firefighting foams used at the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

For the safety of our firefighters and protection of the environment, the MSFA supports the proposed changes.

We thank you for your continued support of the Fire/ EMS/Rescue Service in Maryland and look forward to a favorable outcome for House Bill 619.

Sincerely,

Joel C. McCrea
2nd Vice President