



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

January 28, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 195 – Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on Senate Bill 195. This bill prohibits a person from using, manufacturing, or knowingly selling or distributing rugs or carpets, fire-fighting foam, and food packaging that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

The PFAS family of chemicals and the policy conversation surrounding SB 195 is of great interest to DNR. The department manages several areas where PFAS chemicals impact natural resources including wildfire fighting efforts, the Maryland seafood industry and the health of our underground aquifers. While DNR no longer uses fire-fighting foam containing PFAS, multiple units across the department are coordinating with sister agencies including the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Health to determine the potential for significant impacts.

Best available science indicates that PFAS does not break down in water and is not filtered through any traditional wastewater treatment systems. Water contaminated with PFAS subsequently gathers and remains in fish tissues, shellfish, and drinking water. The extent of human health concerns is still unknown, though the State has developed a multi-agency taskforce to make further scientific determinations to guide policymakers.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit this information on SB 195 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKittrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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