

Joe Anderson
President

January 16, 2021

Patricia Samford
Vice President

Subject: SB195: Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee - January 28th, 2021

Larry O'Brien
Secretary

FAVORABLE

Chandler Wyatt
Treasurer

Melina Cavathas
Director

Dear Senator Pinsky and members of the Committee,

Captain Will Gates
Director

Without reservation, we strongly request a favorable finding for SB195, the
PFAS Protection Act.

John Giusti
Director

Here in southern Maryland, we find ourselves in the presence of two military
installations that have both used and spilled AFFF foams. The Navy has informed
the public via one public meeting (300 attendees) last March and one televised
presentation to our county commissioners this month. This notice has resulted in
a local public that is angry and scared. People here are aware of the threat and
are demanding regulatory action, product advisories, and accountability.

Emily Jackson
Director

Captain Paul Kellam
Director

David Lewis
Director

Our Association in partnership with the Public Employees for Environmental
Responsibility took it upon ourselves to test surface waters of the St. Mary's River
and a few of the aquatic animals caught in the river or nearby in the Potomac.
We made our findings and lab reports available to the Maryland Department of
the Environment. The waters tested positive for minute amounts of several PFAS
analytes. Seven oysters taken from waters throughout the tidal estuary tested
positive for several PFAS analytes as well and in amounts approximately fifty
times higher than the surface waters they were taken from. But most alarming
was a 23-inch striped bass caught nearby in Cornfield Harbor Potomac River that
tested 23,100 total parts per trillion of seven PFAS analytes. Smallmouth bass
tested near the mouth of Antietam Creek were 10 to 20 times higher than this
striped bass (500,000 ppt).

Bob Paul
Director

John Spinicchia
Director

Elaine Szymkowiak
Director

These findings are alarming and yet they also represent most of the testing
done in Maryland. We believe other tributaries to the Bay and the Bay itself
already have levels of PFAS that are a health concern. Clearly, there is a problem
in Maryland that needs to be addressed immediately—before any more PFAS
enters our environment.

The analytes we found in St. Mary's River waters, oysters, and the one crab came from one or more sources. We found nothing to support or refute that the military installation on our shores was responsible as a source. Our research for potential uses or sources of some of the analytes we found are sunscreens, landfill leachate, and agricultural runoff from land where municipal sludge was applied. We also know that PFAS is in many products we use every day.

It is our contention that PFAS is entering our system through numerous sources and that the combined accumulation of these chemicals is a critical health concern.

SB195 is a necessary first step to reduce the ongoing flow of PFAS chemicals into our environment. AFFF, food containers, carpets, and rugs are significant sources that *are not essential uses* of PFAS chemicals. The European Union has developed fire-fighting foams that do not contain PFAS. Carpets, rugs, and food containers do not require PFAS to function.

We need to take all means necessary to arrest PFAS pollution and rising concentrations of these PFAS chemicals in our environment and in our food. We request the Committee return a FAVORABLE report on SB195.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

Joseph Anderson, president