

GORDON • FEINBLATT_{LLC}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

TODD R. CHASON
410.576.4069
CELL: 443.255.1313
tchason@gfrlaw.com

233 EAST REDWOOD STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-3332
410.576.4000
www.gfrlaw.com

January 28, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: House Bill 22

Dear Chairperson Pendergrass:

This letter is written on behalf of the Maryland Industrial Technology Alliance (“MITA”), a non-profit trade association representing industrial, manufacturing, and supporting businesses operating in Maryland **opposing House Bill 22**, which would prohibit certain fire-fighting foams, rugs, and food packaging containing PFAS chemicals. MITA opposes this bill and requests an Unfavorable Report for the following reasons:

- Maryland enacted similar legislation last legislative session banning various flame-retardant chemicals (HB424/SB447), which has not yet gone into effect. This legislation will address several areas addressed in HB22.
- HB22 defines “food package” broadly to include virtually all food packaging and component parts, as well as plastic disposable gloves used in commercial or institutional food service. This broad definition may have unintended consequences by banning materials that are otherwise safe.
- As drafted, HB22 would ban the sale and distribution of food packaging or any product in a food package to which PFAS chemicals were intentionally added on and after January 1, 2022. This is exceptionally fast phase-out and may harm producers and businesses that rely on these products.

For these reasons, MITA respectfully request that you give HB22 an **Unfavorable Report**.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Todd R. Chason

cc: Health and Government Operations Committee Members