



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chairwoman House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **OPPOSE – HB 22 – Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition and Requirements**

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of our client the American Chemistry Council (ACC) to advise you of their opposition to **HB 22 Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition and Requirements**. We along with Steve Wise and Frank Boston represent ACC and we are relinquishing our time to testify at the hearing on February 2, 2021 so that you and the committee members can hear from representatives from ACC, experts as it relates to fire protection and PFAS, Maryland and national companies, and others that are and would be directly impacted by this mandate. We have provided you a letter of opposition endorsed by numerous business and organizations for your review.

We will be in contact with you and should you have any questions or further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate your consideration and ask that you **OPPOSE-HB 22 Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibition and Requirements**.

Sincerely,

Nick Manis

John Favazza

CC: Delegate Sara Love  
Steve Wise  
Frank Boston

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To House Health & Government Operations Committee:

We are writing to underscore the overreaching and unintended consequences that SB 195/HB 22 will have in its current form. We urge the Committee to work with stakeholders to consider targeted amendments that would ensure strong regulation of PFAS chemicals while ensuring overall public safety and avoiding these unintended consequences.

Key points to consider regarding this legislation include:

- While the current bill intends to regulate PFAS, what is clearly not understood is how vast and wide ranging this chemistry is and the range of critical applications that it supports. PFAS are a diverse universe of chemistries that makes possible the products that power our lives -- the cellphones, tablets and telecommunications we use every day to connect with our friends and family; the aircrafts that power the U.S. military; alternative energy sources critical to sustainability efforts; and medical devices that help keep us healthy. In fact, right now, PFAS are being used to support COVID-19 testing equipment and to provide lifesaving protection in medical garments – both uses that are helping save lives around the world in the midst of this pandemic. However, all PFAS are not the same. Each individual chemistry has its own unique properties and uses, as well as environmental and health profiles, so it is not scientifically accurate or appropriate to group all of these chemistries together. SB 195/HB 22 in its current form, would restrict a number of applications that are critical for public safety and public health and should be refined to focus on the specific chemistries of concern.
- SB 195/HB 22 is one of the broadest pieces of legislation that we have seen on this topic. As noted above, this overly broad approach will have widespread unintended consequences for certain products, but also for the Maryland citizens, government and business. This overly



broad approach could undermine Maryland from focusing on most it's most pressing environmental, health and safety issues and will create a patchwork of conflicting and inconsistent state and federal regulations impacting Maryland manufacturers, retailers and small businesses.

- Maryland enacted legislation just last year that just recently went into effect in October of 2020 and would address some of the key issues that are reportedly the rationale for SB 195/HB 22.

We look forward to working with the Committee to address these concerns, advance chemical safety and ensure overall public safety.

