



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 22

Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements Health and Government Operations Committee

Good afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and today, I represent the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. We support HB 22.

This bill addresses the use of harmful chemicals known as PFAS. They are also known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment. PFAs are dangerous to human health because their presence is linked to cancer, reproductive and developmental harms, and reduced effectiveness of vaccines. PFAS are used in non-stick cookware like pans, fabric stain-protective coatings, fast-food packaging, etc.

PFAs have been found in the tap water of 49 states across the U.S.

This bill stops the use of PFAS in food packaging (following the lead of NY, WA, ME), as well as in rugs and carpets (like VT). It holds polluters accountable by ensuring that chemical manufacturers are legally and financially responsible for contamination of our waterways from PFAS. This bill also protects our air and water by banning the mass disposal of these chemicals by incineration (following NY lead).

We respectfully request a favorable report.

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