



March 2, 2022

House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 570: Pesticides- Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony about HB 570, which would put new requirements and restrictions on the application and sale of mosquito control products in the State of Maryland. We respectfully oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable vote.

**Background:** In late 2020 and early 2021, a public interest group reported that it had undertaken testing of certain mosquito control pesticides and found trace amounts of certain types of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in two products. The findings were tied to two products – *Anvil 10+10* in Massachusetts and *Permanone* in Maryland. At that time, a validated method for such testing did not exist; rather, the public interest group used a method designed to sample drinking water, not oil-based pesticide formulations.

Following those initial reports, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued a notice that trace amounts of PFAS had been found in a mosquito control product. Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated testing, including work to develop a validated testing method--beginning to test fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pesticide containers, to further assess the issue. In January 2021, EPA confirmed "there is no PFAS chemistry in the pesticide." Additional EPA testing conducted at EPA's Fort Meade, Maryland specialized laboratory further confirmed no detections of PFAS in the Maryland mosquito control product samples.

Additional EPA testing "revealed the third-party fluorinated packaging may be the source of PFAS" in the pesticide. EPA asked pesticide registrations to take a stewardship approach to this issue and EPA has published testing results on HDPE pesticide containers, with further testing with new data to be published in 2022. All information regarding the testing done by EPA can be found on their website at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

**PFAS Are Not All the Same:** Not all PFAS are the same and it is not appropriate to group them together. PFAS are actually a diverse universe of chemistries that enable a huge range of products and sectors, including electronics, semiconductors, automotive, aerospace, and alternative energy. However, all PFAS are not the same. It is not scientifically accurate nor appropriate to group all of these chemistries together. This is increasingly recognized by various government authorities and policy organizations.

**Pesticides Are Already Regulated:** While this issue continues to evolve it is important to note that the federal and state regulation of pesticide distribution, sale, and use, as well as stringent safety standards and oversight, are already established under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation section. These statutes are designed to evolve as science advances, to support product innovation, and to provide for robust stakeholder and public input into pesticide regulation in the United States *and* in Maryland. The statutes require the review of the most current scientific data on health and environmental impacts for all pesticide products and impose requirements to minimize any risks before they are made available for sale and use.

Pesticides registered in the United States and in Maryland have a comprehensive, scientific data package and rigorous risk assessment to support their registration and use. Products applied for mosquito control are supported by additional scientific study requirements because they are public health tools. Registered pesticides are the most studied substances in the world with significant data on their performance and impact reviewed by both federal and state regulators.

Mosquito control professionals in Maryland rely on several methods to prevent the spread of mosquitoes, including both natural and chemical methods. However, it would be impossible to effectively prevent the spread of disease brought on by mosquitoes without the use of mosquito control pesticides. At this time, HB 570 will not serve to improve public health in Maryland, and we ask that the committee vote NO on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Megan J. Provost  
President

[mprovost@pestfacts.org](mailto:mprovost@pestfacts.org)

*RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders engaged with specialty pesticides and fertilizers used by professionals and consumers.*