



March 2, 2022
Chair Shane Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
Testimony of Jason Davidson, Friends of the Earth
In Support of HB 570

Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the Committee

On behalf of Friends of the Earth and its more than 30,000 members and supporters in Maryland, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 570.

Exposure to PFAS is linked to cancer and other long-term health impacts. Recently, an EPA-approved lab found dangerous levels of PFAS in a commonly used mosquito control pesticide in Maryland.

HB 570 would ensure that all pesticides used for mosquito control in Maryland would be tested for PFAS to help ensure the safety of communities which are sprayed for mosquito control. **Pesticides containing PFAS would be replaced with tested products shown to be PFAS-free.** Given past findings of contamination, this testing is necessary.

PFAS are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals,” due to their inability to break down in the environment. **Inadvertent spraying of these chemicals** through broad mosquito control applications **poses a significant risk to residents as well as local waterways and turf, due to drift.**

These pesticides may have been contaminated by PFAS present in their plastic containers and there is evidence that even low-dose container contamination can be very dangerous to humans. PFAS may also be added as an unlabeled inert ingredient, which EPA allows manufacturers to keep secret as a proprietary component of a pesticide

PFAS disrupts the human endocrine system. A January 2022 [study](#) in Annual Reviews found that children are particularly vulnerable to endocrine disruption, and that **there are essentially no safe levels of exposure for them.** Earlier studies have produced [similar findings](#).

Protections are necessary at the state level. While the Biden administration has made PFAS regulation a priority, early results have been insufficient. EPA has allowed more than 12,000 PFAS products on the market, and exposure is near-ubiquitous. Testing pesticides for contamination in Maryland could eliminate a potentially significant source of PFAS pollution, even as other pathways are restricted.

Due to the substantial risk at even miniscule doses for children, Friends of the Earth strongly urges a favorable report on HB 570.

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