



March 2, 2022

Position: Supporting HB570: Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products
House Health and Government Operations Committee:

MOM's Organic Market serves thousands of customers in 10 stores throughout Maryland. Our customers demonstrate their concern about exposure to pesticides and toxins in the environment by choosing organic. We would like to express our strong support for the Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals Bill and ask for your favorable vote.

PFAS introduced through mosquito control pesticides would constitute yet another toxic and unnecessary exposure to dangerous chemicals that have far-reaching harmful effects for families and children. Mosquito control pesticides are applied to Maryland communities, parks, and lawns, exposing families and children to direct harm from PFAS. Children exposed to PFAS will carry these chemicals in their bodies forever. Maryland must protect its residents and our environment from this hazard. The first crucial step to turning off this tap is for the HGO committee to pass HB570.

MOM's Purpose is *to protect and restore the environment*. Since 2014, we have held an annual "Save the Dandelions" campaign to help raise awareness of the effects that toxic pesticides have on our environment, wildlife, pollinators, and health. In past and current legislative sessions, we have advocated for bills that ban PFAS in food and wellness products. This bill is a part of work we have been passionate about for years.

PFAS, or "forever chemicals," are harmful man-made chemicals that do not break down in our natural environment. They are introduced into our environment through food, wellness, agriculture, and other products and make their way into our soils, waterways, and bodies. They are linked to cancer, developmental issues, congenital disabilities, thyroid disease, liver and kidney impairment, more severe Covid-19 infection, and much more.

In addition to advocating for restrictions on PFAS and pesticides, we consider it our responsibility to educate our consumers - many of whom are mothers of children - about the harms of these substances. PFAS are still a relatively obscure topic to the average citizen, and this has helped them fly under the radar of state regulations and environmental departments. PFAS have gone unregulated for far too long.

Now is the time to regulate PFAS. We call on Maryland Legislators to ensure there are no PFAS in mosquito control products in the state.

Christine Koetz,
Chief Brand Officer