



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education

## House Bill 570

Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals

Date: March 2, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Health and Government Operations

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 570 which limits the use and distribution of pesticides used to control mosquitos which are certified to those that have less than 100 parts per trillion of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance, either as an active or inert ingredient.

Perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS, are emerging as chemicals of concern in the environment because of their ability to cause significant environmental and human health effects and their failure to degrade which allows for infinite increases in concentration over time. Their ubiquitous use in many products over the years contributes to the concerns of increasing concentration.

These chemicals have become so much of a concern that EPA has created an expedited action plan to study their effects, reduce or eliminate them from the waste stream and remediate damages.<sup>1</sup> Key findings from Dr. Vicki Blazer, US Geological Survey, who studies wide ranging chemical contaminants in native fish include:

- PFAS compounds were found in every small mouth bass plasma sample collected in 2018, at four locations in the Chesapeake Bay with differing land use patterns.
- The study measured contaminant concentrations in fish using a nannograms/milliliter parts per billion measure, which is substantially higher than the 100 parts per trillion threshold the bill seeks to limit.
- Lymphocyte function in the fish, which produces antibodies, was negatively impacted by PFAS exposure. CBF has received reports of similar concerns through studies in humans, that PFAS exposure negatively impacts the immune and vaccination response.

Alternative mosquito control pesticides are available that do not include PFAS. This legislation will limit additional, unnecessary exposure to PFAS through a reasonable restriction on pesticide use.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 570.** For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org) and 443.995.8753.

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<sup>1</sup> Caprio, Paul, P.G., Vice President, Director, Chemicals and Contaminants of Emerging Concern, [EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap Timeline](#), EA Engineering, Science and Technology Inc., October 2021.

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