



February 6, 2022

HB 275 - PFAS Chemicals - George “Walter” Taylor Act

Beth Miller for the Green Towson Alliance

Favorable

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Green Towson Alliance (GTA) writes in support of HB 275 – George “Walter” Taylor Act. We are a coalition of environmental advocates who collaborate to achieve environmental goals locally, but we also concern ourselves with broader issues. Pollution to our waterways does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. In fact, PFAS chemicals have been found in 75% of the drinking water tested by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Recent research found high levels of PFAS chemicals in striped bass, blue crabs and oysters from the Chesapeake Bay. These toxic chemicals accumulate in our bodies and have been linked to harmful health effects including cancer, hormone disruption, immune suppression, reproductive problems and developmental issues.

PFAS in firefighting foams puts our firefighters at risk and contaminates our water while there are safer alternatives already on the market. Many major retailers are eliminating PFAS in food storage containers and carpets due to public demand. To best protect public health, we need state action to ensure all retailers follow suit.

This legislation is a critical first step to restricting the use and disposal of a dangerous class of “forever” chemicals. We urge the committee to give a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Miller
for the Green Towson Alliance