



February 9, 2022

Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 275 related to the regulation of PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL substances or PFAS. My name is Robert Simon, and I am testifying today on behalf of the American Chemistry Council.

Overall, the chemical industry supports the strong regulation of chemicals including PFAS chemicals to help protect human health and the environment. However, we respectfully must oppose [unfavorably] the current version of HB 275. In its current form, this legislation is overly broad and will have unintended consequences. We would like to emphasize 3 key points today.

- **PFAS Are Not All the Same and It is Not Appropriate to Group Them All Together** – PFAS are actually a diverse universe of chemistries that enable a huge range of products and sectors—everything from electronics, semiconductors, automotive, aerospace, alternative energy. However, all PFAS are not the same. It is not scientifically accurate or appropriate to group all of these chemistries together. This is increasingly recognized by various government authorities and policy organizations – so there is a need to focus this legislation.
- **The Scope and Focus of the Bill Should be Refined to Address Maryland Priorities** - HB 275 in its current form would restrict key chemistries and applications that are important for public safety and public health so the bill should be refined to focus on the specific uses and chemistries of concern. Likewise, while we support the development of a Maryland specific action plan there is an opportunity to focus the plan on priorities areas for Maryland and increase public input.
- **Ensuring Overall Public Safety and Product Availability.** HB 275 would restrict a number of key product areas. As noted earlier and consistent with feedback from other sectors testifying today, there is an opportunity to focus the proposed restrictions. This should include the need to ensure alternatives are available for key uses, that there are appropriate transition periods for these uses and aligning the proposed restrictions with other state and federal actions to avoiding creating a patchwork of conflicting and inconsistent state and federal regulations that would adversely affect Maryland consumers, manufacturers, retailers, and small businesses.

We would also echo and support the testimony of the Alliance for Telomer Chemistry Stewardship, the Fire Fighting Foam Coalition and others business sectors testifying today on this complex and important range of chemistries.

We urge the Committee to work with stakeholders to consider targeted amendments that would ensure the strong regulation of PFAS chemicals in Maryland while also ensuring overall public safety and avoiding unintended consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Robert J. Simon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Simon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Simon – Vice President, Chemical Products & Technology Divisions

robert_simon@americanchemistry.com

American Chemistry Council* | 700 – 2nd Street NE | Washington, DC | 20002

O: 202-249-6700 | C: 703-608-1333

www.americanchemistry.com