



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT HB 570

Pesticides--Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals Health and Government Operations Committee

Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. We support HB 570.

This bill addresses the use of harmful chemicals known as PFAS. They are also known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment. PFAs are dangerous to human health because their presence is linked to cancer, reproductive and developmental harms, and reduced effectiveness of vaccines. PFAS are used in non-stick cookware like pans, fabric stain-protective coatings, fast-food packaging, etc. PFAs have been found in the tap water of 49 states across the U.S. This bill stops the use of PFAS in mosquito control, thereby helping to protect the residents of Maryland from chemicals that are linked to cancer and other health issues. We believe that, as people of faith, we have an obligation to protect God’s creation, Earth, and the children of God who inhabit it.

We respectfully request a favorable report.