



50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401  
Office: 410-841-5772 • Fax: 410-841-5987 • TTY: 800-735-2258  
Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)  
Website: [www.rural.maryland.gov](http://www.rural.maryland.gov)  
*Charlotte Davis, Executive Director*

*John Hartline, Chair*

Testimony in opposition of  
House Bill 570 - Mosquito Control Products and PFAS  
House Health and Government Operations  
March 2, 2022

**The Rural Maryland Council opposes House Bill 570 - Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals.** This bill would result in health and safety concerns across Maryland, especially in rural and water-bordering parts of the state, by requiring affidavit relating to mosquito control products and PFAS chemicals. The barriers to obtaining this affidavit will make it difficult to supply the needed amount of mosquito control pesticides to adequately reduce the population that is present during the summer months in parts of Maryland.

The PFAS chemical definition in the bill is currently unable to be tested for as there is no current EPA definition for PFAS as it relates to these oily substances, such as mosquito control products. If the pesticide registrants are unable to provide the affidavit, it will cause a shortage in the supply needed to reduce the large population of mosquitos that inhabit parts of Maryland. An uncontrolled population of mosquitos can cause many issues for the health and wellbeing of the public. Mosquitos can carry certain diseases that they get from the blood of an infected animal or person and infect the other animals and people that they feed on. A larger mosquito population increases the likelihood of the spread of diseases like West Nile virus and malaria.

In 2011, the Maryland Department of Agriculture provided mosquito control services to 2,100 communities across 16 of the State's counties covering 725,000 residents. Without the available pesticides to spray across these counties, quality of life would drop for the Marylanders living there and deter visitors from these communities. Outside activities would become unbearable in these locations, specifically in the forests and waters where many recreational activities take place, but mosquitos also live and reproduce.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests an unfavorable report of House Bill 570.

*The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.*