



February 2, 2023

**Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements (SB0158)**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairperson Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Blue Water Baltimore is a nonprofit organization with a mission to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. **We write today in support of Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements (SB0158).**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) do not break down in the environment, and there is no known way to destroy or safely dispose of them. These "forever chemicals" have made their way into our drinking water,<sup>1</sup> the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries,<sup>2</sup> our soil, our food,<sup>3</sup> and consequently, our bodies.<sup>4</sup>

Testing pesticide products for PFAS contamination would protect the health of Maryland residents and the environment amidst an emerging PFAS crisis. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is not addressing PFAS with the urgency this critical issue demands. We must take action in Maryland to fill this void.

This bill would prohibit all sales and use of pesticides that contain PFAS by 2026 in Maryland. After that date, only pesticides that are tested and proven to be PFAS-free will be permitted in Maryland. This legislation will help "turn off the tap" for new PFAS entering Maryland's agricultural and food systems, from which it contaminates our waterways and our communities.

Pesticides do not require PFAS to be effective. And this bill will not burden taxpayers; instead, it will put the costs of testing on the responsible party: multi-billion-dollar pesticide manufacturers. Marylanders need this immediate protection from unnecessary PFAS exposures through pesticides and the food we consume. This critical step will help turn off the tap of dangerous PFAS-containing products and unnecessary PFAS contamination.

We urge a favorable report on SB0158.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Smith-Hams".

Taylor Smith-Hams  
Advocacy & Outreach Senior Manager

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<sup>1</sup> Sydney Evans, et al. (2020). [PFAS Contamination of Drinking Water Far More Prevalent Than Previously Reported](#). Environmental Working Group.

<sup>2</sup> Betsy Nicholas. (2022). [Monitoring PFAS in Bay Waters](#). Presented at the Pesticides & the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Project Conference.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Food & Drug Administration. (2022). [Testing Food for PFAS and Assessing Dietary Exposure](#).

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. (2022). [Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances \(PFAS\) Factsheet](#).