

SB158: Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

February 2, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

PFAS is a forever chemical that accumulates in the environment and in our bodies. It is associated with a myriad of negative human health impacts. The state has already recognized and taken necessary action to remove many products containing PFAS and has begun monitoring some bodies of water.

Some, but not all, pesticides include high levels of PFAS - whether through contamination or deliberate inclusion. These pesticides are then sprayed on crops or in our neighborhoods for mosquito control, where we are exposed. SB158 places the testing burden on the distributor of pesticides, not the state, requiring that before a pesticide can be registered for use in Maryland the distributor must test for PFAS and sign an affidavit.

We are also especially concerned about exposure to PFAS-containing pesticides in farmworker communities, where workers oftentimes work and live in close proximity. Both pesticides and PFAS are linked with similar adverse health impacts, which draws concern when someone is exposed to both.

For these reasons, we support SB158 and urge a favorable report.

Thank you,

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