



SB0158 – Pesticide Registration – PFAS Testing – Requirements

Testimony before

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 2, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB0158**, which would set up a timeline for the removal of PFAS from pesticides. We appreciate the leadership of Senator Hettleman in sponsoring this important legislation.

It has been found that exposure to PFAS chemicals at high levels can cause thyroid disease, higher cholesterol levels, kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, pregnancy-induced hypertension, liver damage, and kidney disease. At lower levels, it has been found to reduce the immune system's response, but research is continuing that could show even low-level exposure could cause much more severe concerns. Due to the fact that we are exposed to PFAS chemicals every day from a variety of sources, it is imperative that we try to remove as many as possible. This would hopefully limit the potentially deadly impacts of exposure. This bill will continue that process by ensuring that PFAS chemicals are removed from all pesticides by January 1, 2026 (sooner for pesticides targeting mosquitos).

For these reasons, we support SB0158.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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