

February 1, 2023

Written testimony for SB0158- Pesticide Registration -

PFAS Testing - Requirements¹

Position: Favorable

Submitted by: Denisse Guitarra, MD Conservation Advocate, Nature Forward



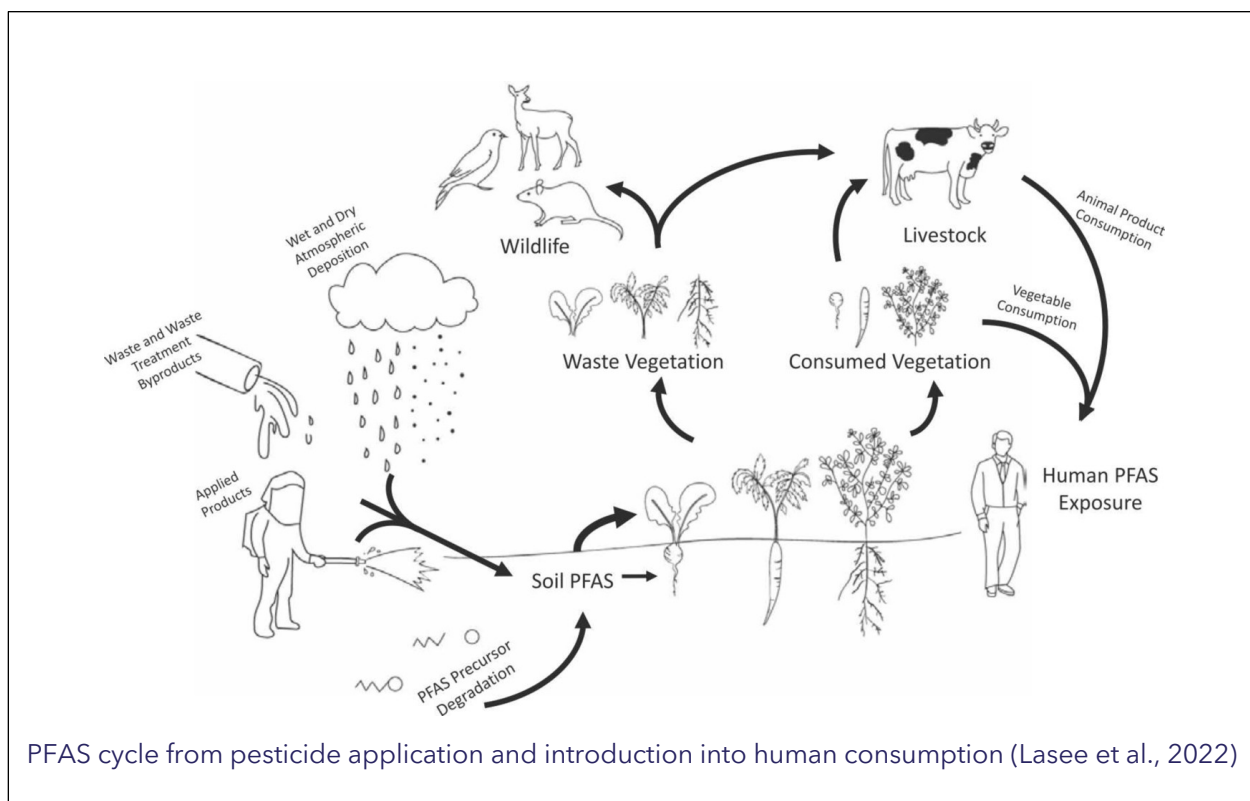
Dear Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Nature Forward (formerly Audubon Naturalist Society) is the oldest independent environmental organization protecting nature in the DC metro region. Our mission is to inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy. We thank the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB0158- Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements to prohibit pesticides containing PFAS for use against mosquitoes.

In particular we are in support of SB0158 to limit the use of PFAS chemicals and their distribution into the environment. As defined in the bill, PFAS chemicals are fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom, including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. PFAS do not break down in human bodies or in the environment. Rather, these “forever chemicals” continue to threaten environmental and human health as they pollute waterways and drinking water. PFAS have also been linked to cancer and other adverse human health effects. One newly identified source of PFAS in the environment is the use of pesticides on crops. Recent research has detected PFAS in 7 out of 10 pesticides tested, as well as in crops where pesticides have been used.² When used on crops, PFAS can remain in the harvested produce making their way to grocery stores for human consumption as shown in the graphic below.

¹ SB0158- Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements. Available at: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0158>

² Lasee S., K. McDermett, N. Kumar, J. Guelfo, P. Payton, Z. Yang and T.A. Anderson (2022) Targeted analysis and Total Oxidizable Precursor assay of several insecticides for PFAS. *Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters* 3: Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S266691102200020X#tbl0005>



The passage of this bill would provide a necessary step forward for Maryland in mitigating the environmental and public health risk presented by the continuing manufacture, sale, and use of PFAS chemicals in pesticides. On behalf of our 28,000 members and supporters, Nature Forward recommends that the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee support the passage of SB0158.

Sincerely,

Denisse Guitarra, Nature Forward Maryland Conservation Advocate

Ilisa Tawney, Nature Forward Conservation Volunteer