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Date: February 2, 2023
To: Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: SB 0158 – Pesticide Registration – PFAS Testing - Requirements - **OPPOSE**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware opposes SB 0158 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

SB 0158 would prohibit the Maryland Department of Agriculture from registering any pesticide for use for mosquitos by 2024 and for any other pesticide by 2026 unless the distributor of the pesticide submits testing of PFAS to the department.

Currently the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is researching and discussing various testing strategies related to PFAS. This strategy was just released in June of 2022 and is stated by EPA that “most of the hundreds of PFAS currently in commerce have limited or no toxicity data, and if EPA attempts to research them one at a time, it will be impossible for EPA to expeditiously understand, let alone address, the risks these substances may pose to human health and the environment.” That’s why EPA is looking to first understand the data gaps and develop required testing.

This means currently there is no approved methods for testing and this legislation does not offer that. Once those methods are approved, then the next concern would be lab capacity to handle all of the thousands of registered pesticides in the state of Maryland.

This could effectively ban all pesticides from being registered in Maryland. This would have a detrimental impact on all aspects of agriculture, as pesticides are used in all production methods, including organic.

And more concerning is the number of disinfectants that are also registered pesticides in the state of Maryland. Disinfectants are pesticides as they kill pests – viruses and germs. So everything from common household names like Clorox, Lysol, Arm & Hammer, Ajax to commercial grade disinfectants, could no longer be registered. These disinfectants are critical in protecting our food supply as they are used every day in our harvesting plants. There are very few alternatives for disinfectants that would meet USDA guidelines for food safety. There is currently 56 pages of just those disinfectants that are registered with the pesticide database.

And disinfectants are used for worker safety as well. Long before COVID, hand sanitizers and disinfectants were part of the every-day use of processing workers, and since 2020 have become even more paramount for worker protection.



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We appreciate the importance of understanding and addressing concerns around PFAS. However it must be done in a scientific manner that offers research, funding and ways to address data gaps – most likely at the national level, not by the state.

We urge an **unfavorable** vote on SB 0158.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Grayson Middleton at middleton@dcahicken.com or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Porter".

Holly Porter
Executive Director