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**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 158 – Pesticide Regulation – PFAs Testing – Requirements**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 2, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB158 on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

As the South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper, I monitor the health of our waterways, advise the public of the state of our local water quality, and identify and implement restoration projects to address any issues. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PFA chemicals are man-made chemicals that do not break down in the environment or our bodies, earning the nickname “forever chemicals.” PFAs have been linked to negative health impacts including cancer and reproductive problems and they are a pollution in our local waterways, air, and soil.

In 2022, Arundel Rivers Federation participated in a PFA study of our region. A total of 39 samples were analyzed from Chesapeake rivers and streams, including one in Church Creek, a tributary of the South River. All of these samples contained PFAs or PFOs<sup>1</sup>. To protect the health of our waterways and our communities, further monitoring and regulations of these forever chemicals is needed now.

Senate Bill 158 will require all manufacturers of mosquito control products in Maryland to provide annual independent lab testing and certification to prove the pesticide product is PFA-free, ensuring that no PFAs in mosquito control pesticides contaminate our air, water, and soil.

**Senate Bill 158 is on piece of a broader PFA regulatory framework that is needed to protect our waterways and ensure a safer environment for our communities. For these reasons, Arundel Rivers respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 158.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Bassett".

Elle Bassett  
South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper  
Arundel Rivers Federation

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<sup>1</sup> Cyclopure PFAs Survey Report. Summer 2022 (U.S.) <https://waterkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Cyclopure-WKA-PFAS-Survey-Report-final.pdf>