



## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 158 – Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements

January 31, 2023

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SB158**, Pesticide Registration—PFAS Testing Requirements, on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland's Eastern Shore with more than 2,000 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration and education.

Pesticide use on the agriculturally-dominated Eastern Shore is among the highest in the state, putting nearby sensitive wildlife and aquatic resources that many Marylanders depend on for fishing, hunting and recreation at risk of contamination. **According to Maryland Department of Agriculture's data from the [2020 Maryland Pesticide Survey Statistics](#), 898,435 lbs. of pesticides were applied in the nine counties on the Eastern Shore in 2020, making up 57% of the state total.** The delivery of pesticides to local waterways is complex as the different chemicals from pesticides can be transported by leaching to groundwater, overland flow to surface waters, and atmospheric delivery via drift, volatilization, and deposition.

This bill will protect the Eastern Shore environment and its communities by requiring PFAS monitoring of mosquito pesticides first, followed by required monitoring of all pesticides used in the state. If PFAS are detected above the action limit of 100 ppt, use of that pesticide will be prohibited. **PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are known for their bio-persistent and bio-accumulating characteristics, meaning when they are released into the environment they will remain a hazard as they accumulate in soils, waters, and food sources.** PFAS are known to cause cancer; diseases of the thyroid, liver and kidneys; and development issues in fetuses and infants.

It's incredibly important that we monitor and eliminate the use of PFAS in materials that are applied to our land, food, and water as a means of protecting human health. **As shown in other states like Maine, Minnesota, and New York, the application of PFAS on crop fields leads to high levels of the chemicals in the foods grown on the fields and the wildlife that graze on them.** As Marylanders who take pride in growing and catching locally sourced seafood and wildlife, it's imperative that we protect our communities by protecting those food sources from PFAS. For these reasons and the examples described above, ShoreRivers urges the committee to adopt **Senate Bill 158**.

Sincerely,

**Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper** on behalf of:

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***ShoreRivers***

Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director

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