

Testimony: SB 158: Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment (EEE)

Position: In Support

February 2, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I'm concerned about the presence of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in St. Inigoes Creek in St. Mary's County.

I live in the Rosecroft Community of St. Mary's City, Maryland. It's a beautiful place, the birthplace of Maryland. About 70 homes occupy the Rosecroft peninsula. The neighborhood is steeped in Maryland history. My property is believed to be the site of one of the colony's seaports. We're adjacent to Rosecroft Point, home of the 17th-century British tax collector.

Our property slopes into the sea where slaves loaded tobacco onto ships. The property also serves as the drain for the neighborhood's surface water. There are times during storms when a 3-foot-wide rushing stream flows from culverts under the road through our property into the phragmite and the marsh on the edge of St. Inigoes Creek.

Our community annually participates in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Program. The community volunteer for the program informed us that Permanone 30-30 is used for regular applications from spring through early fall. I don't think this is a good idea. I think this is poisonous public policy.

In 2020, a sample of this product was tested by Eurofins lab (an international lab used by EPA for testing for at least three decades to date) and was found to contain high concentrations of PFOA. While other samples provided a few months after by Maryland Department of Agriculture and the manufacturer Bayer were found to be PFAS-free, the jury is out as to why the testing varied from 3,500 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFOA as reported in the initial test by Eurofins lab.

When it rains, it pours. Torrents of rain cleanse the chemically sprayed yards of my neighbors, sending the waters to drain to our sloping property and into the sea.

Using a Freshwater Future water test kit, I discovered 21.7 ppt of PFOA in the creek. The company used the University of Michigan's Biological Station for testing. The water sample was analyzed following the EPA method 537 Rev. 1.1

PFOA has been found in high levels in clams. The compound may become airborne to settle in our lungs and in dust in our homes.

It's amazing to me that many people have still not heard of these disastrous chemicals.

I ask that the Committee vote favorably to pass SB158 to require pesticides be found PFAS-free in Maryland.

Thank you,

Pat Elder, St. Mary's City, MD