

February 1, 2023

Testimony on Senate Bill 19
Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing – Requirements
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Support

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1500 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 158 to improve the protection for all Marylanders from exposure to PFAS ‘forever chemicals’.

PFAS do not break down in the environment and there is no known way to safely dispose of these chemicals. We know that they are making their way into water systems, including the Chesapeake Bay, drinking water, soil, food and our bodies, and that they are linked to numerous serious health impacts. Senate Bill 158 seeks to prevent PFAS from continuing to be combined with pesticides, that we know on their own already have acute and long-term adverse health impacts.

We also know that environmental hazards fall more heavily on those living in poorer neighborhoods, most often people of color, and subject to other negative social determinants of health.

Senate Bill 158 will require all manufacturers of mosquito control products in the state to provide annual independent laboratory testing and certification to prove that the pesticide product is PFAS-free, beginning January 1, 2024, and by January 1, 2026 manufacturers of all pesticides to provide this testing.

We urge you to give Senate Bill 158 a favorable report.