

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

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Date: February 14, 2023

Subject: Proposed Bill H0319/S0158, Pesticides containing PFAS

To: Senator Brian Feldman, Chairman, Education, Energy, & Environment (EEE) Committee and Representative Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chairwoman, Health & Government Operations (HGO) Committee

From: Lonnie W. Luther, President, Montgomery County Farm Bureau (MCFB)

On behalf of more than 200 members of MCFB please accept this as written testimony on H0319/S0158. The hysteria that some folks experience over the existence of PFAS in our environment is based in emotions- not history, science, or common sense.

The so called “forever chemicals” number about three thousand and dozens of them have been used throughout the USA and worldwide for several decades. They came into use along with the “plastics revolution,” and have found their way into our homes, kitchens, closets, cars, trucks, and in our blood streams.

My understanding is that analytical methods have not been developed for testing PFOS in oil-based pesticide products. One test would not be specific for dozens of different chemical structures.

Relative to the amount of these chemicals already in our environment, the amount that might be found in pesticide products is like a single drop of water in the Chesapeake Bay. Rainwater tests positive for PFOS. Polar bears test positive for it. Human blood tests positive for PFAS. Human waste tests positive for it. It is ubiquitous in our environment and has been for decades.

All of us have already been exposed to several of these fluoride-carbon bonded chemicals most of our lives, since WWII era. Life expectancy has not decreased because of PFAS, life expectancy has increased dramatically during those ~ 7 decades. These chemicals probably do not improve human health, but they probably are not as harmful as our imaginations and emotions allow us to believe.

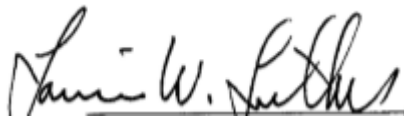
We support efforts to reduce hazards to human health, and we believe the dose [exposure] has direct correlation to any adverse health effect. Common sense would suggest that efforts to minimize exposure are best placed elsewhere, where highest levels of exposure exist, such as industrial sites. Since several manufacturers ceased to use PFAS in manufacture of products, human blood levels have decreased.

As written, H0319/S0158 proposes that our elected officials make decisions without the benefit of accurate scientific study. Farmers believe in science. We depend on the guidance of DEP and MDA. Please let them do their jobs and study this issue properly so that you can make a sound decision.

Therefore, we ask for an unfavorably vote on H0319/S0158.

Please see and read the attached brochure which compares a few of our most common PFAS exposures. Pesticides don't make the list.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie W. Luther". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lonnie W. Luther, President

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Attachment: PFAS: Understanding the Relative Risks

Sincerely,

Michele A. Cropp, MCFB President
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