

DANA M. STEIN  
Legislative District 11  
Baltimore County

Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Subcommittees  
Chair, Environment  
Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527  
Fax 410-841-3509 · 301-858-3509  
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 319**

**Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals**

Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

HB 319 calls on manufactures of pesticides to first test for the presence of PFAS in their product, as part of their annual registration process with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Last year this committee took the step to get PFAS out of firefighting foam, carpets and food packaging. This year we need to make sure the pesticides that are routinely sprayed across our communities to prevent mosquitoes, or in our schools and on our farmland do not have PFAS. A simple test as part of the registration process will solve this problem and protect Marylander's food, water, and communities from increasing exposure to PFAS from pesticides.

As a reminder PFAS are a class of man made chemicals in many products and manufacturing processes. They are called forever chemicals because they persist unchanged in the environment and last in our bodies for years and decades, and we continue to consume food and water that is contaminated with PFAS. We can't look at the news without seeing a new finding about PFAS contamination. It's in surface water, drinking water, fish, food, and many products.

We now know that PFAS are in some pesticides and millions of pounds of pesticides are applied in Maryland annually, so it is critical that as part of the already existing annual registration process at MDA that each product is tested by the manufacturer and the results provided to MDA. If it has PFAS it cannot be used.

As PEER Science Policy Director Kyla Bennett, a scientist and attorney formerly with EPA said: "If the intent was to spread PFAS contamination across the globe there would be few more effective methods than lacing pesticides with PFAS."

This bill phases in the testing requirement. By January 2024 pesticides used for mosquito control must be tested for PFAS and the affidavit provided to MDA as part of their regular registrations process. This is important because these products are sprayed in 2100 communities all spring, summer, and fall and by private companies around people's homes.

Then by January 2026 all pesticides will need to be tested for PFAS as part of the standard registration process. These tests are already being done by labs across the country and are inexpensive.

Please do note that in your packet of testimony is a quote from the largest commercial lab in the world who can do these tests for \$375-\$475, and is included in MDE's recommended lab list.

National PFAS expert who works frequently with the EPA, Dr. Peaslee could not join us today. His written testimony is submitted but his research of pesticides and PFAS will be covered by others.

Dr. Linda Birnbaum - Former head of the National Institute of Environmental Health Scientist at the NIH also could not be here today due to surgery but her written testimony is clear that PFAS causes serious health issues not just linked to these problems. This is why we need to stop this source of contamination.

The panelists who follow include some of the country's top experts in PFAS, PFAS and Pesticides and PFAS and impacts on health. Their credentials are incredible and are provided in detail in their written testimony. They will provide critical information on the latest research on this topic including testing done by EPA and readily available at labs across the country. We are so lucky that they took the time to share their expertise with us.