



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 21, 2023

To: House Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Oppose HB 319 – Pesticide Registration – PFAS Testing - Requirements**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in opposition of HB 319. This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, would prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from registering a pesticide for use against mosquitoes in the State unless the distributor of the pesticide submits to the Department test results indicating the pesticide has passed the PFAS test and an affidavit attesting to the legitimacy of the PFAS test results. Additionally, the bill, beginning January 1, 2026, would prohibit the Secretary from registering any pesticide for use in the State unless PFAS test results and a certain affidavit are submitted by the distributor.

Currently, there are no EPA validated PFAS tests available for accurately testing all classes of pesticides. The bill allows for the use of drinking water tests and these tests are proven to be inaccurate on pesticides as they generate many false positives and negatives.

Until there are validated tests created to accurately test pesticides for PFAS and those tests be made available to the manufactures, there is no way for distributors to achieve the requirement proposed in this bill and would systematically remove the use of all pesticides in Maryland. This would make it impossible for farmers to continue to produce crops in the state.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 319

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396