
Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 319 – Pesticide Regulation – PFAs Testing – Requirements

Health & Government Operations Committee
February 21, 2023

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB319 on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

As the South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper, I monitor the health of our waterways, advise the public of the state of our local water quality, and identify and implement restoration projects to address any issues. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PFA chemicals are man-made chemicals that do not break down in the environment or our bodies, earning the nickname “forever chemicals.” PFAs have been linked to negative health impacts including cancer and reproductive problems and they a pollution in our local waterways, air, and soil.

In 2022, Arundel Rivers Federation participated in a PFA study of our region. A total of 39 samples were analyzed from Chesapeake rivers and streams, including one in Church Creek, a tributary of the South River. All of these samples contained PFAs or PFOs¹. To protect the health of our waterways and our communities, further monitoring and regulations of these forever chemicals is needed now.

House Bill 319 will require all manufacturers of mosquito control products in Maryland to provide annual independent lab testing and certification to prove the pesticide product is PFA-free, ensuring that no PFAs in mosquito control pesticides contaminate our air, water, and soil. The EPA currently uses the tests named in this bill and the world-renown Eurofins Labs can preform testing for all the manufacturers.

House Bill 319 is on piece of a broader PFA regulatory framework that is needed to protect our waterways and ensure a safer environment for our communities. For these reasons, Arundel Rivers respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 319.

Sincerely,



Elle Bassett

South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper
Arundel Rivers Federation

¹ Cyclopure PFAs Survey Report. Summer 2022 (U.S.) <https://waterkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Cyclopure-WKA-PFAS-Survey-Report-final.pdf>