

**KATIE FRY HESTER**  
*Legislative District 9*  
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Education, Energy, and  
Environment Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on  
Cybersecurity, Information Technology  
and Biotechnology



*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 304  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3671 · 301-858-3671  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3671  
KatieFry.Hester@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 19, 2024

Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Energy, Education, and Environment Committee:

Thank you for considering SB956, Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution Act. Since the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) produced the PFAS Action Plan and briefed the committee on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we have been working closely together to outline the necessary next steps in the regulatory process. As a result of those conversations, we have agreed to a consensus amendment that strikes the bill as introduced, and instead creates a timeline and process to empower MDE to develop standards and plans for continuing their work of regulating PFAS discharge from large industrial users.

Before we get to the amended bill, I'd like to remind the committee that during the PFAS briefing on January 30, 2024, we were informed that PFAS causes significant health risks including higher cholesterol, impacts on liver enzymes, decreased vaccine effectiveness in children, increased risk of high blood pressure, and decreased infant birth weight. During the hearing, MDE provided an update on its monitoring of all 437 public water systems to address PFAS contamination. They found that 63 of these systems exceed the maximum contaminant levels for PFAS proposed by the EPA, which are set at a draft level of 4 parts per trillion. Of these, 14 systems are in the process of being awarded \$40 million to address the contamination.

It is critical we address the contamination in the remaining 49 systems and prevent future contamination. We're constrained by the remaining federal funds for the clean-up. If it took \$40 million to address 14 systems, the remaining \$80 million is likely not enough for the remaining 49 systems. I have attached a list by county of the contaminated public water systems to my testimony (see Table 1 below).

During the PFAS hearing, we delved into the intricacies of MDE's PFAS Action Plan, which was required by the George "Walter" Taylor Act of 2023. Section 5.6 of the Action Plan states that MDE will "Incorporate new permit requirements for industrial dischargers with reasonable potential to violate water quality for PFAS." During the hearing, MDE confirmed their intention to update the Significant Industrial User (SIU) permits to encompass regulations over the

discharge of PFAS, underscoring a proactive and reasonable approach to safeguarding our water from these harmful contaminants.

Therefore, AS AMENDED, Senate Bill 956 is the next step in implementing this intent within the PFAS Action Plan. As amended, SB956 requires MDE to:

- Work with Publicly Owned Treatment Works and Significant Industrial Users with pretreatment permits to identify the facilities that currently and intentionally use PFAS chemicals.
- Develop monitoring and testing criteria for those facilities.
- Work with Publicly Owned Treatment Works and Significant Industrial Users to develop action levels and mitigation plans for addressing PFAS contamination.
- Develop a standard MCL for discharge of individual PFAS that are known to be harmful, as well as total PFAS.
- Produce an interim report or update the PFAS Action Plan with progress made on these requirements by December 1, 2024.

Ensuring our water's purity isn't just a policy choice—it's a non-negotiable commitment to the health and safety of our communities. The Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution Act, as amended, is an essential next step to advance our state's public health and clean water and is necessary to avoid millions of dollars of damage. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report of SB 956.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Howard and Montgomery Counties

**Table 1: Community Water Systems with Detected PFAS above Proposed MCL  
(Highlighted if Selected for Funding)**

	County	PWSID	System Name
1	ANNE ARUNDEL	MD1021462	MAYO CENTER AND APARTMENTS
2	BALTIMORE	MD0030011	SUNNYBROOK
3	BALTIMORE	MD0030202	CHAPEL HILL NURSING CENTER
4	BALTIMORE	MD0030204	GRANITE MOBILE HOME PARK
5	CARROLL	MD0060003	TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD
6	CARROLL	MD006i0006	TOWN OF MANCHESTER
7	CARROLL	MD0060007	TOWN OF MOUNT AIRY
8	CARROLL	MD0060012	CITY OF TANEYTOWN
9	CARROLL	MD0060013	TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
10	CARROLL	MD0060015	CITY OF WESTMINSTER
11	CARROLL	MD0060202	GAITHER MANOR APARTMENTS
12	CARROLL	MD0060203	WOODBINE VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK
13	CARROLL	MD0060208	LAKEVIEW MHP LLC
14	CARROLL	MD0060211	PLEASANT VIEW NURSING HOME
15	CARROLL	MD0060214	ROCKBROOK VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK
16	CARROLL	MD0060215	SULLIVANS MOBILE HOME PARK COMMUNITY
17	CARROLL	MD0060218	TWIN ARCH MOBILE HOME PARK
18	CARROLL	MD0060213	RESERVOIR TRAILER PARK
19	CECIL	MD0070011	TOWN OF ELKTON
20	CECIL	MD0070015	ELKTON WEST
21	CECIL	MD0070025	HARBOR VIEW
22	CECIL	MD0070202	GOLDEN KAY APARTMENTS
23	CECIL	MD0070204	WEST NOTTINGHAM ACADEMY
24	CECIL	MD0070207	BAY COUNTRY ESTATES MOBILE HOME PARK
25	CECIL	MD0070209	BENJAMINS VILLAGE/HOMESTEAD M.H.P.
26	CECIL	MD0070211	CHESAPEAKE ESTATES MOBILE HOME PARK
27	CECIL	MD0070213	WHISPERING PINES MOBILE HOME PARK
28	CECIL	MD0070214	CONOWINGO MOBILE HOME PARK
29	CECIL	MD0070223	MAPLE HILL MOBILE ESTATES
30	CECIL	MD0070233	STONE CHASE/ ROCK CREEK M.H.P.S

31	CECIL	MD0070247	MISTY MEADOWS 1 / HIGHLAND HILLS M.H.P.
32	CECIL	MD0070248	MAYBELLE MANOR MOBILE HOME PARK
33	FREDERICK	MD0100004	BRIERCREST APARTMENTS
34	FREDERICK	MD0100013	FOUNTAINDALE SOUTH
35	FREDERICK	MD0100018	TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN
36	FREDERICK	MD0100019	MOUNT SAINT MARYS UNIVERSITY
37	FREDERICK	MD0100020	TOWN OF MYERSVILLE
38	FREDERICK	MD0100023	TOWN OF THURMONT
39	FREDERICK	MD0100027	TOWN OF WOODSBORO
40	FREDERICK	MD0100032	BRADFORD ESTATES
41	FREDERICK	MD0100207	GILBERTS MOBILE HOME PARK
42	FREDERICK	MD0100210	POLINGS MOBILE HOME PARK
43	FREDERICK	MD0100212	SPRING VIEW MOBILE HOME PARK
44	HARFORD	MD0120001	CITY OF ABERDEEN
45	HARFORD	MD0120003	MARYLAND AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
46	HARFORD	MD0120007	CAMPUS HILLS WATER WORKS
47	HARFORD	MD0120009	TOWN OF DARLINGTON
48	HARFORD	MD0120011	GREENRIDGE SUBDIVISION
49	HARFORD	MD0120014	LAKESIDE VISTA
50	HARFORD	MD0120204	CLEAR VIEW MOBILE HOME PARK LLC
51	HARFORD	MD0120208	FOUNTAIN GREEN MOBILE HOME PARK
52	HARFORD	MD0120210	R & R ESTATES
53	HARFORD	MD0120213	QUEENS CASTLE MOBILE HOME PARK
54	HARFORD	MD0120214	DARLINGTON MOBILE HOME PARK
55	HARFORD	MD0120215	SWAN HARBOUR DELL MOBILE HOME PARK
56	MONTGOMERY	MD0150002	TOWN OF POOLESVILLE
57	WASHINGTON	MD0210204	EL RANCHO MOBILE HOME PARK
58	WASHINGTON	MD0210205	WOODLAND TRAILER PARK
59	WICOMICO	MD0220004	CITY OF SALISBURY
60	WICOMICO	MD0220008	CITY OF FRUITLAND
61	WICOMICO	MD0220204	GATEWAY VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK

62	WICOMICO	MD0220218	BOH-NAK MOBILE HOME PARK
63	WICOMICO	MD0220221	NAYLOR MILL VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK
64	WICOMICO	MD0220223	COLONIAL MILL ESTATES MOBILE HOME PARK