



POTOMAC  
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NETWORK

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### Testimony in Support of HB1153

March 1, 2024

Chair Korman and Committee Members,  
FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am here today to advocate for a favorable position on HB1153, a crucial bill that seeks to protect public wastewater facilities from the impacts of PFAS pollution originating from industry. This legislation is a necessary step to ensure that the burden of cleaning up PFAS pollution does not fall on the shoulders of the public and our valuable wastewater utilities.

PFAS are toxic chemicals that have been widely used in industrial processes and consumer products for decades. These persistent and harmful chemicals have now been found in the water supplies of communities across the country, posing serious health risks to those who consume contaminated water.

Waste Water Treatment plants are a source of PFAS pollution. I have monitored facilities, MDE has monitored these facilities and the data shows a significant impact to Maryland rivers. The data also shows that public wastewater systems that have industry as a significant source of waste have higher PFAS levels. These industries must have a pre-treatment for PFAS.

The costs associated with removing PFAS in a pre-treatment program should not be the responsibility of the public wastewater facilities and the general public. Instead, the industries that discharge waste containing PFAS should bear the financial burden of mitigating their own pollution. It is unfair to expect taxpayers and wastewater utilities to foot the bill for the cleanup of a problem that was created by industry.

By passing HB1153, Maryland can take a proactive stance in holding industries accountable for the removal of PFAS. Requiring these industries to invest in pre-treatment technologies to remove PFAS pollution before it enters the public wastewater facilities is a critical step in protecting public health and the environment. Additionally, placing the financial responsibility on the industries that produce and discharge PFAS pollution will help to prevent public waste utilities from increasing fees on the public and businesses.



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Furthermore, this legislation sets a clear standard for environmental responsibility and sustainability. By ensuring that industries are accountable for their role in removal of PFAS pollution, we are sending a message that Maryland is committed to protecting its water resources and public health.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB1153 and stand up for the protection of public wastewater facilities and the public from the impacts of PFAS pollution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to the committee to give HB1153 a favorable report.

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