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<u>**TESTIMONY ON HB#/1153 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**</u>
**Environment - Water Pollution Control - Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution
(Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution Act)**

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB#/1153, Environment - Water Pollution Control - Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution (Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution Act)

This bill is both a health and an environmental measure that seeks to keep PFAS chemicals (Per and Polyfluorinated Substances) out of the environment as much as possible. The CDC defines these chemicals as a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Fluoropolymer coatings can be in a variety of products. These include clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces, and the insulation of electrical wire. Many PFAS, including perfluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are a concern because they:

- do not break down in the environment,
- can move through soils and contaminate drinking water sources,
- build up (bioaccumulate) in fish and wildlife. [1]

The CDC further explains the dangers of PFAS chemicals. [2] This is a bill to force a reduction by industrial users of PFAS discharges into bodies of water. The proper storage and disposal of PFAS chemicals must be mandated with penalties for improper protection being applied. The risks of PFAS are known, Maryland must take the lead in containing them and the damage that they are causing.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an favorable report on HB#/1153

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[1] https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html

[2] https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/pfas/default.html