



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 13, 2024

To: House Government and Operations Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions – HB 1190 - Support

Chair Pena- Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, my name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Health and Government Operations Committee vote favorably for Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions – HB 1190 – Support.

This bill would prohibit a person from selling a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying by a certain date as well as prohibiting a person from using a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed on the labeling.

The adverse effects from forever chemicals such as PFAS have a long history of being toxic to animals. Forever chemicals are ingested by our fish and wildlife as they leach into the soil and water sources. The classic example is DDT and its devastating effect on the bird population across the country, as highlighted by Rachel Carson in her book, *Silent Spring*.

Studies documenting the prevalence of PFAS chemicals in the environment demonstrate how humans and animals are not protected from contamination. An analysis of U.S. government data derived from more than 500 fish samples by the journal *Environmental Research* revealed that the majority of fish living in streams, rivers and lakes across the country are contaminated with per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels almost 300 times higher than found in fish from other sources, including ocean and farmed fish.

Maine and Minnesota have already passed laws banning the sale of pesticides containing PFAS. In Maryland, we have alternatives to pesticides that contain PFAS. The clock is ticking.

It's time to take action to protect people, animals, and the environment from the toxic effects of PFAS!

In closing, I would like to thank Delegate Ruth for her sponsorship of HB 1190 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.