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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1190 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations 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#/1190, Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions

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, among them the pesticides this bill would regulate. 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 sellers of pesticides to eliminate PFAS chemicals from their products where that PFAS chemical is an active ingredient. The removal of PFAS chemicals must be mandated with penalties for improper labeling 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#/1190

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

² <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/pfas/default.html>