



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 1190**

Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions

Date: March 13, 2024

To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position:

From:

**Favorable**

Doug Myers

MD Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1190, which prohibits the sale and eventual use of pesticides containing known PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on their label.

Per or Poly Fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of chemicals which break down very slowly in the environment and have toxic effects on biological organisms. Because they are toxic at very low concentrations, they have the ability to accumulate in tissues of soft bodied organisms like worms and clams in the aquatic and marine environment and be further magnified through the food chain to higher order organisms such as fish and crabs which humans consume. The pathway of delivery of these chemicals through the use of agricultural pesticides is of particular concern as field runoff into agricultural ditches and drainage structures to surface waters without filtration. PFAS detection, treatment and removal technologies continue to evolve in settings such as water filtration and wastewater treatment, but these methods are expensive impractical to remove PFAS from agricultural runoff.

HB 1190 appropriately targets this pathway and acknowledges that there are alternative pest control methods available through Integrated Pest Management.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1190.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*