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CECIL COUNTY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

March 3, 2025

Delegate Clippinger, Chair
House Judicial Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1112 – PFAS Chemicals-Civil Actions & Prohibition on Consumer Product Sales

Delegate Clippinger & Members of the House Judicial Committee:

The Cecil County Chamber of Commerce, representing over 400 businesses and organizations in Cecil County, is writing to express our serious concerns regarding the proposed ***HB1112 – PFAS Chemicals-Civil Actions & Prohibition on Consumer Product Sales***. Our Government Relations Committee, comprised of Chamber members who monitor and provide testimony on pending legislation, has carefully reviewed this bill and request an **UNFAVORABLE** vote.

The Chamber is particularly concerned about language in the bill that would prohibit the manufacture, sale, offer for sale or distribution in the State of a consumer product that contains PFAS chemicals on or after July 1, 2026. This would adversely affect several businesses in Cecil County, including Fluoron and W.L. Gore. Of note, W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. (Gore) has been operating in Cecil County since 1971 and is one of the largest employers in Cecil County. The language in this proposed legislation describes both Fluoron and Gore's entire operations in the County and would likely adversely impact their employment footprint in the County.

While we recognize the scientific debate and concerns about PFAS, the blanket ban on the manufacture, sale or distribution of any consumer product containing a "PFAS chemical" will severely disrupt the Maryland economy by making it illegal to make and sell a wide variety of important products, such as automobiles, cellphones, computers, refrigerators, solar panels, and televisions. These products, and hundreds of other complex consumer products, contain one or more PFAS.

The Cecil County Chamber of Commerce's membership continues to be concerned about the poor business friendly rankings of Maryland as compared to other states. An absolute ban of PFAS products or materials used in making products will only enhance this poor business friendly reputation.

We thank you for considering all of the facts and circumstances associated with this legislation and ask for an **UNFAVORABLE** ruling on **HB1112**. Please feel free to contact our Government Relations Committee through Jessica Worley at jworley@cecilchamber.com (410-392-3833) or Committee Chair Carl Roberts at cdennyroberts1@aol.com (443-206-3068).

Sincerely,

Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Government Relations Committee