



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 719 – Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation

Dear Chair Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) supports SB 719, with amendments. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have become widely dispersed throughout the environment due to decades of extensive use in industrial processes and consumer products. Their chemical stability—once valued for performance—has resulted in extreme persistence in soil, water, air, and living organisms. As a result, PFAS are now detected in surface waters, groundwater, drinking water supplies, sediments, wildlife, and human populations across the country.

The proliferation of PFAS presents a significant and long-term environmental and public health challenge. Scientific evidence links certain PFAS compounds to adverse health effects, including developmental, immune, and cardiovascular impacts, underscoring the need for proactive and sustained action. Addressing PFAS contamination requires coordinated efforts to identify sources, prevent further releases, remediate impacted media, and manage PFAS-containing wastes, while adapting to evolving regulatory standards and scientific understanding. Failure to act risks compounding environmental liabilities, increasing remediation costs, and eroding public trust in environmental stewardship.

This bill addresses PFAS in biosolids, an area in which MES is inextricably linked. MES manages around 90 (this fluctuates based on client need) wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) across the State, and annually treats ~2,462.69 dry tons of biosolids, ~45% of which is land applied and ~41% of the treated biosolids are landfilled (the remaining is untreated liquid sewage sludge transported to other WWTPs for further treatment or establishing biomass for wastewater treatment processes).

The bill would set limits on the concentration of PFAS that can be land applied in future years. MES is generally in agreement with this approach, but there are several areas of the bill that we feel warrant further discussion and attention.

1. Page 9, lines 26-29. This provision sets an unreasonable standard for lab testing and may result in a severe shortage of available labs. We recommend broader language that would give MDE flexibility in setting minimum standards for accredited labs.
2. The bill identifies several different forms of biosolids - blended, commingled, products containing sewage sludge. These terms are undefined in the bill and, as an operator of WWTPs in the state, we are unclear what they will mean with the new PFAS limits in place. This has impacts on WWTPs because under the bill, if a facility blends or commingles, it appears this will result in

- a de facto ban on land applying if the concentrations exceed 25 parts per billion (PPB).
3. Timelines in the bill are a bit awkward or contradictory.
 - a. The bill is effective October 1, 2026. Subsection (c) says, starting October 1, 2027, no land application ≥ 50 PPB. If between 25 - 50 PPB, then (E)(F) (mitigation plan and increased testing). But subsection (d) says that between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2029, blended/commingled is permitted, but cannot land apply if concentrations ≥ 25 PPB. The bill seems to prohibit land application of blended/commingled materials between October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027, but on October 1, 2027 land application of blended/commingled materials is permissible, but only if the concentration is below 25 PPB. Again, we are not clear on the difference between "product containing" and "blended"/"commingled".
 - b. The bill says blending or commingling is permissible until September 30, 2029, but the bill is not clear on what happens after September 30, 2029. Does that mean the bill places a ban on blending/commingling starting October 1, 2029? This appears to phase out products that are currently in the market that are designed for specific agricultural uses as well as some currently available storage practices. This limits the available land application storage and products.

MES is committed to working with the bill sponsor and stakeholders on this and we look forward to contributing to Maryland being a leader in tackling this very important environmental problem.

Contact: Jeff Tosi, Director of Strategy and Government Affairs
Phone/Email: 410-729-8504 (w) | jtosi@menv.com