



TESTIMONY FOR SB0713 Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation

Bill Sponsor: Senator Love

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0713 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We have so many chemicals in our bodies – bits of plastic and PFAS chemicals. We continue to discover new ways that we are ingesting plastics or harmful chemicals. These chemicals are affecting our health and the health of our children and our environment. We desperately need legislation to reign in these chemicals.

This bill, if enacted, would try to put a cap on the amount of PFAS that is used in sewage sludge, which is used on farms, ingested by animals (which we eat), grown into crops (which we eat) and then runs off into our water supply (which we drink). It prohibits anyone placing sewage sludge on their land from having that sludge have more than 25 parts per billion. It does allow the mixing of sewage sludge with other things to bring down the PFAS to below the 25 parts per billion.

It will, unfortunately require farmers to test for PFAS and come up with mitigation plans if they find higher concentrations of PFAS. The Department of Agriculture can help and should very much be a partner in this. We understand the additional requirements for farmers and are sympathetic to having them use more of their time doing this, but we need to stop PFAS from getting into our food and our water.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.