

House Bill HB0925 Sewage sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Regulation

House Environment and Transportation Committee - 25 February 2026 SUPPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of Kids for Saving Earth (KSE), an organization devoted to providing educational materials and activities for teachers, parents, and children to make their environment healthier.

Introduction

First created in the 1930s and 1940s, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a class of more than 14,000 man-made chemicals that contain fluorine atoms bonded to a carbon chain. This carbon-fluorine bond is one of the strongest ever created by man and is rarely seen in nature. PFAS and their complex degradation products remain in the environment for so long that scientists are unable to estimate an environmental half-life.

Humans are exposed to PFAS through many pathways, practices, and products. Although drinking water is the exposure route for millions of people in the USA, inhalation and dermal absorption also contribute to body burden. According to NHANES data, more than 98% of people living in the U.S. have PFAS in their bodies. Some PFAS bioaccumulate, leading to concentrations in animals that are significantly higher than the surrounding environment. PFAS can and do enter the human food chain. Plants can accumulate PFAS from the soil and water.

Kids for Saving Earth urges the passage of HB0925. This bill will reduce the exposure of people in Maryland to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in air, soil, water, and food. Expensive technology can remove PFAS from drinking water, but there are few viable options for addressing contamination in agricultural land and the wider environment. PFASs are persistent, bioavailable, and bioaccumulative. They can move through the soil, water, and air to contaminate a larger environment; sources of drinking water, crops, and livestock are great concerns. Until PFAS is eliminated from sewage, it is essential to restrict the use of sewage sludge as a soil amendment.

While no Marylanders should suffer unnecessary exposure to PFAS, limiting exposure to PFAS is particularly important to women and children. Women spend most of their lives in a specially vulnerable group—prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, childbearing, and elderly. Exposures to children can have immediate effects as well as impact their health decades later.

There are many long-term, life-altering, and expensive effects associated with PFAS exposure. Based on peer-reviewed publications, the Environmental Protection Agency lists the following effects:

- Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.

- Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.
- Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response.
- Interference with the body's natural hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Human exposure to PFAS is linked to life-altering and life-shortening health impacts. We must limit exposure to PFAS. **We strongly urge your support for HB0925 and a favorable Committee report.**

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Kids for Saving Earth