PROTECT MARYLANDERS FROM DANGEROUS PFAS–CONTAINING PESTICIDES

Pass the **Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements Bill** to keep Maryland safe from these dangerous forever chemicals.

Scientists in multiple labs have found dangerous levels of PFAS in several pesticides commonly used throughout the country.[6]

A recent study[7] found extremely high levels of PFOS (a type of PFAS) in 6 out of 10 insecticides tested, ranging from 4 million to 19 million parts per trillion (ppt). For comparison, the EPA current lifetime health advisory level for PFOS in drinking water is only 0.02 ppt.

What are PFAS? PFAS are known as **"forever chemicals"**—and do not break down in the environment. There is also no known way to destroy or safely dispose of PFAS. As a result, these toxic products have already made their way into our water systems, including the Chesapeake Bay[1] and our drinking water, our soil, our food,[2] and consequently, into our bodies.[3]

EVEN LOW EXPOSURE TO PFAS IS LINKED TO A MULTITUDE OF LONG–TERM SERIOUS HEALTH[4] IMPACTS[5], INCLUDING:

- **KIDNEY, TESTICULAR, AND BREAST CANCER**
- **MORE SERIOUS COVID-19 INFECTION OUTCOMES**
- **HIGH CHOLESTEROL**
- **IMPAIRED FUNCTIONING OF THE LIVER, KIDNEYS, AND IMMUNE SYSTEM**
- **DEVELOPMENTAL DAMAGE TO INFANTS**
- **CHILDHOOD OBESITY**
- **BIRTH DEFECTS**
- **THYROID DISEASE**
- **LESS EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO VACCINES**

"If the intent was to spread PFAS contamination across the globe there would be few more effective methods than lacing pesticides with PFAS," stated PEER Science Policy Director Kyla Bennett, a scientist and attorney formerly with EPA.

Why do we need this legislation?

Unfortunately, action to protect public health at the EPA has been blocked by the chemical industry. As a result, the EPA has allowed **more than 12,000 PFAS**[8] on the market with **little oversight**, despite a growing body of data on their hazards. There is no research on the synergistic effects of combining these "forever chemicals" with pesticides that are already known to have acute and long-term adverse health impacts. The PFAS contamination crisis exists across the U.S.—and we must take action at the state level.

What will the bill DO?

Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements Bill requires all manufacturers of mosquito control products in the state provide annual independent lab testing and certification to prove the pesticide product is PFAS-free, beginning January 1, 2024. Then by January 1, 2026, manufacturers of all pesticides must provide this same test.

Who will the bill HELP?

Reducing PFAS contaminants in our air, water and soil will make all Marylanders—children and adults, especially pregnant women—safer.

"**Not everybody you know is buying carpets with PFAS in them, and not everybody is exposed to firefighting foam,**" said Ruth Berlin, director of the Maryland Pesticide Education Network (MPEN), "**but everybody is exposed to pesticides, whether they like it or not.**"[9]

» TAKE ACTION TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL raindrop@mdpestnet.org.

SMART*on*
PESTICIDES
maryland

*For Safe Water
& Healthy Kids*

[1] https://www.ewg.org/research/national-pfas-testing/
[2] https://www.fda.gov/food/chemical-contaminants-food/testing-food-pfas-and-assessing-dietary-exposure
[3] https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html
[4] https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html
[5] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6380916/
[6] https://civileats.com/2022/11/07/pfas-forever-chemicals-pesticides-pollution-farmland-mosquito-control-epa-inert-ingredients
[7] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S266691102200020X" *Journal of Hazardous Materials Letters*, "Targeted Analysis and Total Oxidizable Precursor Assay of Several Pesticides for PFAS
[8] https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2021/03/09/environmentalists-say-trumps-epa-fell-far-short-in-the-fight-against-pfas/
[9] https://civileats.com/2022/11/07/pfas-forever-chemicals-pesticides-pollution-farmland-mosquito-control-epa-inert-ingredients