



PROTECT MARYLANDERS FROM DANGEROUS PFAS-CONTAINING PESTICIDES

Pass HB XX/ SB XX to test widely used mosquito control products for PFAS contamination

Some pesticides used for mosquito control have been found to contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (or “PFAS”)—a dangerous class of chemicals linked to long-term health impacts. This past summer, 2,100 communities in 16 Maryland counties signed up for the state’s mosquito control program, and other communities and residents have also contracted with private vendors for this service. Since the EPA is not moving on this critical issue, we must take action at the state level.

What are PFAS?

Due to their molecular structure, PFAS—also known as “forever chemicals”—do not break down in the environment nor in our bodies. 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,¹ our food,² and eventually, our bodies.³

EVEN LOW EXPOSURE TO PFAS IS LINKED TO A MULTITUDE OF LONG-TERM SERIOUS HEALTH⁴ IMPACTS⁵, INCLUDING:



TESTICULAR AND KIDNEY CANCER



MORE SERIOUS COVID-19 INFECTION OUTCOMES



PRE-ECLAMPSIA IN PREGNANT WOMEN



IMPAIRED FUNCTIONING OF THE LIVER, KIDNEYS, AND IMMUNE SYSTEM



DEVELOPMENTAL DAMAGE TO INFANTS



BIRTH DEFECTS



THYROID DISEASE



LESS EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO VACCINES



Why do we need this legislation?

Unfortunately, at the federal level, action to protect public health at the EPA has been captured by the chemical industry under both Democratic and Republican administrations.⁶ As a result, the EPA has let **more than 9,000 PFAS** on the market with **little oversight**, despite a growing body of data on the hazards. Also alarming, to date, 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.

What will the bill DO?

The PFAS-free Mosquito Control Products Bill would require testing of widely used mosquito control products in our state for PFAS contamination. It would ban all uses of PFAS from pesticide products used for mosquito control by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and private vendors to protect the health of residents and the environment amidst an emerging PFAS crisis.

Who will the bill HELP?

All Marylanders’ health, adults—especially pregnant women—and children, as well as the environment!

The General Assembly must pass legislation ensuring that no pesticide product containing PFAS is used as part of any mosquito control activity conducted by the state or conducted by any private vendor providing mosquito control services in the state.

We need to take a critical step to turn off the tap of these dangerous PFAS-containing pesticides.

» **TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

[LINK TO WEBSITE]

#NOPFASINPESTICIDES

**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://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2021/03/09/environmentalists-say-trumps-epa-fell-far-short-in-the-fight-against-pfas/>

