Scientists in multiple labs have found dangerous levels of PFAS in common pesticides used in Maryland and throughout the country.

This new research has found high levels of PFAS in common pesticides used on food crops; the crops grown in these fields tested at thousands of times the EPA’s lifetime drinking water limit.

Decades ago, when we learned the dangers of lead and asbestos, we took action. Now that we are understanding the dangers of PFAS, we can turn the tide and protect our health by enacting smart, common-sense regulations.

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 and our drinking water, our soil, our food, and consequently, into our bodies.

EVEN LOW EXPOSURE TO PFAS IS LINKED TO A MULTITUDE OF LONG-TERM SERIOUS HEALTH IMPACTS, 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
- Birth defects
- Thyroid disease
- Childhood obesity
- Less effective responses to vaccines

Pass the SB 158/HB 319, the PFAS Testing Study bill, an important step to keep Maryland safe from these dangerous forever chemicals.
Why do we need this legislation?

Millions of pounds of pesticides are applied annually in Maryland that end up in our food soil, water, our bodies, and the Bay—we do not know if they contain PFAS. 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\(^1\) 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?

The amended bill Pesticides – PFAS Testing – Study Bill (SB 158/HB 319) requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), in consultation with the Departments of Environment and Health, and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to clarify several questions regarding how to best test for PFAS in pesticides. The 6-month study group begins June 1, 2023 and will deliver a report on its findings November 1, 2023.

Who will the bill HELP?

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

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“\[\text{If the intent was to spread PFAS contamination across the globe there would be few more effective methods than lacing pesticides with PFAS,}\]

stated PEER Science Policy Director Kyla Bennett, a scientist and attorney formerly with EPA.

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**TAKE ACTION TODAY at the website:**

Visit SmartOnPesticides.org

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