



To Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

We are writing to underscore the overreaching and unintended consequences that SB 195/HB 22 will have in its current form. We urge the Committee to work with stakeholders to consider targeted amendments that would ensure strong regulation of PFAS chemicals while ensuring overall public safety and avoiding these unintended consequences.

Key points to consider regarding this legislation include:

- While the current bill intends to regulate PFAS, what is clearly not understood is how vast and wide ranging this chemistry is and the range of critical applications that it supports. PFAS are a diverse universe of chemistries that makes possible the products that power our lives -- the cellphones, tablets and telecommunications we use every day to connect with our friends and family; the aircrafts that power the U.S. military; alternative energy sources critical to sustainability efforts; and medical devices that help keep us healthy. In fact, right now, PFAS are being used to support COVID-19 testing equipment and to provide lifesaving protection in medical garments – both uses that are helping save lives around the world in the midst of this pandemic. However, all PFAS are not the same. Each individual chemistry has its own unique properties and uses, as well as environmental and health profiles, so it is not scientifically accurate or appropriate to group all of these chemistries together. SB 195/HB 22 in its current form, would restrict a number of applications that are critical for public safety and public health and should be refined to focus on the specific chemistries of concern.
- SB 195/HB 22 is one of the broadest pieces of legislation that we have seen on this topic. As noted above, this overly broad approach will have widespread unintended consequences for certain products, but also for the Maryland citizens, government and business. This overly broad approach could undermine Maryland from focusing on most it's most pressing environmental, health and safety issues and will create a patchwork of conflicting and inconsistent state and federal regulations impacting Maryland manufacturers, retailers and small businesses.

- Maryland enacted legislation just last year that hasn't even gone into effect yet and would address some of the key issues that are reportedly the rationale for SB 195/HB 22.

We look forward to working with the Committee to address these concerns, advance chemical safety and ensure overall public safety.

