

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
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January 31, 2022

Senator and Committee Chair Paul Pinsky
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: **Support** for SB273, Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements (George “Walter” Taylor Act)

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Senate,

We are writing in support of SB273, the George “Walter” Taylor Act.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of SB273. PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals” contaminate our water, and from there get into our food system. This bill is important for equity in Baltimore – because those with the least resources have the least access to reliable medical care to deal with the ways that PFAS can harm health, including including liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and cancer. While PFAS are being phased out in many areas, legislation is needed to speed this up.

We urge the Committee to support SB273.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Senator Elfreth

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