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**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1147 Environment – Playground Surfacing
Materials - Prohibitions**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 26, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1147**, on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

House Bill 1147 will prohibit the installation of playground surfacing materials that contain a certain concentration of lead or PFA chemicals. According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, there is no safe level of some PFAS in drinking water and there are risks to exposure. When using these chemicals in playground materials, we risk children picking up chemicals on their hands as they play and then accidentally ingesting them. Children are more vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals and we should be putting the highest level of protection in these areas designed specifically for children.

As South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper, I often advocate for clean water efforts, and I have provided testimony or supported legislation that seeks to better regulate PFA contamination in our groundwater and industry discharges. However, now as a mother of a 3-year-old with another on the way, I must also put on my “mom hat” to advocate for the safety of my children from these dangerous chemicals.

Arundel Rivers Federation strongly supports protecting our local environment and communities from environmental hazards such as PFAS and we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB1147**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Bassett".

Elle Bassett
South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper
Arundel Rivers Federation