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Topic	Webinar ID
Zoom 1 Webinar: Summit for Climate and the Environment	882 9105 2887
Question	Answer
Will a summit recap be posted anywhere? Happy to be here today but I missed Day 1.	Yes. The slides, video, chat and transcript will be on our website - mdlegislative.com. We will also email the slides to you.
Hi Cecilia, can you please put links for the Acts and the Caesar Report that Secretary Kurtz is discussing? Thank you!	CESR Report: https://www.chesapeake.org/stac/cesr/
For Josh K: What are some examples of species coming into the Bay that are not endemic to the Bay. Are they invasive species constituting a danger to native species, or just something different? Why do you think they are appearing now?	live answered
Will the act or any part of it also apply to the Coastal Bays behind Ocean City?	live answered
Lining up with yesterday's conversations, how much of a risk does the potential build-up of additional gas plants for energy generation pose (whether in MD or in neighboring states) to achieving Chesapeake TMDL goals?	live answered

Lining up with yesterday's conversations, how much of a risk does the potential build-up of additional gas plants for energy generation pose (whether in MD or in neighboring states) to achieving Chesapeake TMDL goals?	Thought he was going to get to this. Type it in again and we'll try to get his legislative person to answer.
extremely important as you talk about increasing fees and such, that we keep control of the narrative. don't forget what should have been rolled out as the Concrete Tax was turned on us as the 'Rain Tax'.	This is very important. Being able to ensure that people know why fees are being raised is important.
yes, talk about it repeatedly and keep the narrative. I live in D7 so have quite a bit of negative to deal with.	I asked if we have time to mention it to Secretary Kurtz.
Is support for regenerative farming included in any of the bills? Also wondering if native and traveling birds will be better protected under the Whole Watershed Act bill?	Support for regenerative agriculture is included in the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act, with a focus on defining and implementing on state lands.
How much of the Bay will be protected from extraction (i.e. fishing) for biodiversity recovery?	Secretary Kurtz had to leave. Please reach out to him via his email.
What will Public Lands Bill include for co-benefit improvements? Any plans for EV charging for park visitors?	Secretary Kurtz had to leave, so could you reach out to him via his email.

What is meant by a nonpoint source?	Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is pollution that comes from many sources, rather than a single point, like a pipe or sewage treatment plant.
Apologies. Had to join late due to family emergency. Will slides and/or recording be shared?	live answered
Apologies. Had to join late due to family emergency. Will slides and/or recording be shared?	Yes. The slides will be emailed and the videos, chats, transcripts and slides will be on our website - mdlegislative.com
Is there a cost-benefit to farmers when they take their land out of production?	Senator Love and Brent Walls had to leave, please reach out to them directly.
Bring waterman and women into these conversations with farmers - bringing together our farmers of the land & water with decision makers honors their life work, their knowledge and may bring unexpected solutions.	Thanks! I think Senator Love would want to hear from you directly.
With more storms and sea level rise, what is the risk to the trees within 100 feet of the water line and will they grow and thrive?	Great question! The incentive programs that apply to this 100 foot buffer will take climate resilience and sea level rise into account. For example, there are areas in Dorchester County that are so low lying that it would not make sense to invest in trees that would be vulnerable to salt water intrusion impacts. In those cases grass buffers, wetland practices, or land retirement would be the practice that would be targeted to those areas. Farm land with appropriate elevation, slope, and hydrology would be highly incentivized for trees.
If there is science on buffers and reduced salt water intrusion, how do we start metrics on this - similar to nitrogen, sediment, etc.	Apologies if I misspoke. While there are no reports on tree buffers or increased setbacks reducing saltwater intrusion, the setbacks and the incentive programs will move farming out of areas impacted by saltwater intrusion, and provide a financial opportunity for landowners and farmers to benefit from transitioning the 100 foot buffer into trees or grasslands.

	You may be aware that saltwater intrusion causes increased and significant nitrogen pollution from our shorelines, and so removing nutrient application from the 100 foot buffer will reduce the impacts of saltwater intrusion on the land.
Who does the testing, how much does it cost and who pays for it?	Not answered
Re the Near Shore Act, can you put the 2,665 acres of farmland that would be subject to the fertilizer ban into the context of total agricultural acres in the affected tidal water counties? I would expect it's a very low percentage. I think this context could be important to on-the-fence legislators.	Absolutely. 2,665 acres of farmland about 0.42% of the State's total farmland, so less than half of one percent! As we mentioned in the presentation, this bill's goal is to maximize benefits to our waterways while minimizing impacts to farmland.
What about PFAs in compost? For example, some of the larger compost facilities may end up composting food containers in addition to food (for example, expired hummus, still in its container, which may contain PFAs)	We are waiting for the bill's language to see if it covers compost that is sold or distributed to the public.
How much kick-back are you getting from corporations and large farms at the PEAS regulations? What outcomes to expect with new Federal government?	live answered
Conversation about PFAS in biosolids causes me to wonder about whether those levels have already worked their way into livestock populations to	If manure from livestock/chickens is used as fertilizer beyond their own farm, it will be defined as a biosolid and will have to be tested. at this point testing the animals themselves is not tested and not currently looked at by the USDA.

the extent that fertilizer from those sources should also be tested	
One of the largest point sources of plastic /synthetic carpeting containing PFAS and using PFAS in production is artificial turf carpeting used everywhere indoors and outdoors from day care centers to schools to parks playgrounds and fields. However, artificial turf was explicitly exempted from the PFAS bill which otherwise did include much smaller uses of PFAS containing synthetic carpeting. When will this be remedied?	Last session we passed Delegate Guyton's bill HB1147 which takes a small step by prohibiting playground surface materials which contain intentionally added PFAS. It's not a complete solution but takes a step to protect children and pressure manufacturers to stop adding PFAS.
Carpenters Union has installed these water bottle filling stations all around the International Training Center - a great change from the mini-fridges full of little plastic water bottles. They have a digital counter on them, it's nice to get the feedback on how many bottles we're saving when we use them	Great to hear.
Carpenters Union has installed these water bottle filling stations all around the International Training Center - a great change from the mini-fridges full of little plastic water bottles.	I was also thrilled to learn that BWI and some other airports have them, so the last couple of times I traveled I brought my refillable water bottle through security empty (which is allowed - just not filled) and then filled it in the airport.

They have a digital counter on them, it's nice to get the feedback on how many bottles we're saving when we use them	
Will the filling station requirement apply to all government-owned buildings as well as privately owned?	live answered
Will the filling station requirement apply to all government-owned buildings as well as privately owned?	Yes, it will apply to all buildings that are already required to have water fountains under the international plumbing code, which includes assembly and entertainment facilities, many businesses, educational facilities, factories and industrial facilities, institutional facilities like hospitals and prisons, retail stores, and some others. The requirements are by capacity, for example in educational facilities 1 water fountain is required for every 100 people, so under this bill they would also be required to have 1 filling station per 100, which could be a combo unit.
Does the Maryland Department of Labor support the Better Buildings Act?	The Maryland Department of the Environment submitted favorable testimony last year. The Department of Labor did not submit testimony
Maybe for Martha Ainsworth: what about people who use an old "soda" or "water" bottle, repeatedly, to fill with water at a filling station? Am I correct that you shouldn't use an old bottle, but instead should use a "reusable water bottle" that is designed for that purpose?	single use water bottles do breakdown, releasing microplastics and other chemicals. Research says that if do want to reuse them, they should be hand washed or just rinsed. We should push people to use bottle made for multiple uses and perferably made of metal.
Do the water filters filter out PFAS?	Reverse osmosis water filters can be installed at the faucet. Also here is EWGs Guide to PFAS water filters https://www.ewg.org/research/getting-forever-chemicals-out-dri-inking-water-ewgs-guide-pfas-water-filters
Are there states and localties that have successfully implemented plastic bottle recycling	live answered

program and received support from consumers? This is an important environmental concern but implementation looks to be complicated.	
What is the actual rate of true recycling for aluminum cans as compared to plastic bottles?	In deposit states, the recycling rate (as a % of all containers sold) is 75% for aluminum cans, but in non-deposit states only 37%. (You can't recycle what you can't collect!)
Is there an emphasis on using metal or glass containers instead of plastic. Concerns have been raised about the microplastics released in collection and handling of plastic bottles.	There has not been a focus on that, but it would be a great idea to reach out to one of the legislators that have been involved in recycling and plastics to talk about a new bill.
Is there an emphasis on using metal or glass containers instead of plastic. Concerns have been raised about the microplastics released in collection and handling of plastic bottles.	My sports stadium reusable water bottle bill specifically defines reusable beverage container as aluminum or stainless steel.
And, do tin cans recycle better than aluminum cans?	Aluminum cans are more efficient for recycling than tin cans. However, tin cans are more durable. The recycling process for tin cans is slightly more complex and less efficient than aluminum. Aluminum packaging requires less energy, making it a more eco-friendly choice than metal bottles and tin cans
New York has vending machines at many retail places for returns.	The success rate in getting used beverage containers back depends on two features -- the level of the deposit AND the convenience of the redemption facilities. Reverse vending machines and bag drops at retailers that sell beverages make a big difference in the return rate because people can drop off the empties when they go back to buy more beverages.
this bill has failed in the past. what's different this time?	live answered
how do we overcome the force of the petroleum	live answered

industry who will put so much resources forward to resist any bottle bill?	
For the PCR Bill, will there be a provision to NOT use PFAs laden post-consumer plastic? I assume older plastic containers would be more likely to contain PFAs, compared to NEW (virgin) plastic containers (that may be adhering to newer trends)	There is not a provision for PFAS content in post-consumer plastic. Unfortunately, PFAS is still a common additive used in most plastics. Some states have banned certain PFAS in plastics that are in contact with food. We have to be careful on this, because some laws say "intentionally introduced", which the plastic producers are getting around.
Has Sierra Club forecasted the increased capacity in terms of staffing, facility construction and maintenance and refunds for the bottle recycling bill?	The beverage producers, through a non-profit beverage container stewardship organization, are responsible for setting up the system (according to a plan submitted to and approved by MDE), for implementing and financing the program. The program is budget-neutral for the state. It is financed by the beverage producers, revenue from the sale of collected materials, penalties, and unredeemed deposits (when people fail to turn in their containers for a refund). The beverage container stewardship organization will be investing in the infrastructure and jobs to get the work done. They must also reimburse MDE for their oversight.
How is the PCR content determined? Isn't the recycling industry proposing a misleading definition?	The Plastic PCR Content bill requires third-party certification of the postconsumer recycled content by an independent certifying body, and the bill includes a financial penalty for failing to reach the targets.
Not directly related to this, but wondering if anyone is aware of any effort to address all the microplastics being added by dishwasher pods?	We have not seen any action on this.
How about a bill to eliminate single-use plastic so we don't have to figure out what to do with it.	There have been bills in the past. They have gone nowhere because there is so much push back from businesses and from manufacturers. Legislators have been breaking the problem up.
As a long-term bottle recycler, I see an	In bottle bill programs, the containers can't be redeemed for a refund if they're damaged, dirty, or the universal bar code can't

opportunity to clarify when a plastic bottle is clean enough to be recycled. Often any street bottle that has any folds or wrinkles in the bottle are most likely to have clear dirt that makes recycling nearly impossible. I will stop here - have plenty more! Thanks!	be read. Recycling works a lot better when the containers are clean, and less likely to contaminate the stream.
Who does the PFAS testing, how much does it cost and who pays for it?	The PFAS in Pesticides bill requires no PFAS testing, as the bill targets known PFAS active ingredients which are listed on the product label.
for Del. Love and also relevant to Del. Brooks and others please address the lack of regulation of PFAS and plastic pollution from plastic carpeting covering upwards of a thousand acres of land in MD at schools and parks outdoors causing millions of pounds of PFAS containing macro and microplastic pollution into land, air, soil, water and bodies of children who play on them.	Kathy, has brought up a very important related issue. Synthetic turf grass is coated in PFAS and it leaches into groundwater and is absorbed by children who play on these toxin filled surfaces. Parents are completely unaware of this significant source of contamination and potential harm to their children.
A) why does it have to take so long to phase out PFAS if they are known to be dangerous B) will the bill be written in a way that requires testing for any alternatives that may be used after these are phased out? Reminds me of all the efforts to get rid	A) The timing is phased in to address the most vulnerable populations' exposure as quickly as possible, and give farmers a bit more time to implement alternatives. B) The bill does not require any testing of alternatives. Unfortunately, testing is limited to identifying approximately 70 PFAS chemicals of the more than 12,000 PFAS chemicals, so testing is not a reliable way to be certain the alternatives are free from PFAS due to the inert ingredients (which are confidential and kept secret from the public) or from container contamination. EPA, however, has taken several actions to address PFAS contaminating pesticides from their containers.

of BPA, but no research had been done on what was used instead	
Well sure let's not inconvenience conventional AG. They need to TOTALLY phase out ALL pesticides. PFAS is particularly bad, but ALL pesticides are harmful!	Agreed!
Can the new Federal administration pull back funds allotted to MD if they are not already in our hands	My understanding is that grants approved under one administration are expected to be upheld unless specific provisions or changes in the law occur that would warrant a reversal.
Can the new Federal administration pull back funds allotted to MD if they are not already in our hands	I'd also add that I think - and Misty can correct me if I'm wrong - there's bipartisan interest in wildlife crossings so I don't think there would be a desire in Congress to reverse the funding for that program.
How is the health of MDE's staff? Didn't they lose a bunch of staff under the Hogan administration?	They will be on later in the day. Can you ask this again?
Could the Cherish Act be used to prevent the proposed MPRP transmission lines and data centers from impacting EJ communities? Is the state considering that farmers could be considered as EJ communities given the impact?	There are a lot of particular permitting issues around transmission lines and complicated decisionmaking authorities. The CHERISH Act specifically applies to certain types of facilities and certain permits that MDE issues, so transmission lines may not fall under those categories, but related activities with permits in those categories potentially might.
Having worked for a couple years in a coal power plant, and going home every day blackened as any miner, I can understand the health concerns. I would	We would love to have you part of our effort! Please reach out to me. kharbeson@mdlcv.org

love to see any collected funds go toward air monitoring in effected communities - I surely hope we could prevent asthma, rather than have to respond to health issues after the fact	
In response to Del Ruth's response about PFAS and synthetic turf- Question: YES and thank you for helping to pass the playground bill but how do we fix the 'intentionally added' loophole? Unfortunately the phrase "intentionally added" has become the new industry loophole for getting out of PFAS trouble- by asserting that even if they knowingly used it in production of the material- they didnt 'intentionally' add it to the material.	Yes, it's frustrating how difficult it is to do the things we know we need to do, and we just have to keep chipping away at the problems. I don't have a good answer, I wish I did. Minnesota passed a sweeping PFAS bill that phases it out completely for all products with varying dates but a final date of 2032. That seems awfully long, but hopefully the comprehensive nature of that bill will put manufacturers on notice that they need to stop using these things. Other states are working on it as well - Maine passed a comprehensive law also but has had to back off on some of it.
I have a septic system but I live about a 1/2 mile from the bay, all uphill. Do we need to be concerned. We don't have any problem with flooding and we have our septic cleaned out on a regular basis.	Sandy - Thanks fro the question. Please shoot an email to Annie to get better clarification on your question: arichards@shorerivers.org
In the PFAS Testing for Biosolids bill: Who does the PFAS testing, how much does it cost and who pays for it?	If the biosolids go right from the WWWT to the farm for land application, testing will be done at the WWTP. If the biosolids are handled by a hauler or middle-person for storage before land application, then the testing requirement will fall on whoever is in possession of the biosolids two-weeks prior to land application.

Does this pesticide bill include herbicides which new the weedklers?	Pesticide is the generic term- herbicides/weedkillers are pesticides, so Yes.
My business is called Dandelion foodscapes and I know for fact that dandelions are amazing at revitalizing soil by de-compact soil and are nutrients dense. furthermore weeds in general are symptom of what land is suffering from . I'm pro banning pesticides and relearning land management. I appreciate this proposal.	Grew up eating dandelion salads! Support for restrictions on weedkillers came from groups and businesses like yours because people understand mor enow that these are flower and the term "weed" is apesticide-lawncare industry term to generate use of their products. Pollinators need these flowers, and clover, to thrive.
Julie, could you clarify whether your bill bands or restricts? Your slide says ban, but your presentation said restrict	I didn't write the slides- but the Takoma Park & MoCo laws restrict- they don't "ban"- that's why I specified any law would not be a ban-- exemptions for mosquito control and noxious weeds would likely be included in the language of the law. I'm just the environmental activist, not the writer of the proposed law but I've learned that "ban" leads to too much pushback esp since it applies to cosmetic/aesthetic use of pesticides only.
So excited to get rid of gas leaf blowers, thank you!!!!	We are too! Please complete our leaf blower survey as it's critical to getting support from lawmakers to hear what Marylanders think about these horrific pollution devices.
When said "1 hour of using a gas powered leaf blower = driving 1,100 miles," what pollutant is being measured?	The study discusses smog forming pollutants, but the principle pollutant is PM2.5. Gas leaf blowers also contribute many other pollutants including VOC's, nitrogen oxides, ozone and hydrocarbons to name a few.
When said "1 hour of using a gas powered leaf blower = driving 1,100 miles," what pollutant is being measured?	I also want to add that PM2.5 is responsible for greatest number of adverse health effects in air pollution.
PGC Is also working on a leaf blower bill, and we have good research on the OSHA pieces (hearing damage, lung injury) for workers.	Awesome!

Are there environmentally friendly ways to build new electric transmission lines that don't disrupt the environments they are strung through?	Yes, there are many possible solutions. One, we can upgrade the existing infrastructure to carry more electricity. According to the Department of Energy, the current transmission system across the nation is only operating at 50% of capacity. Two, we can implemented grid enhnacing technologies (including battery storage and other new technologies) that make the system we have more efficient. Third, we can implement more robust distributed energy grid solutions that can then trransmit electricity through lower voltage distribution lines that are most economic to bury. Four, we can require data centers to co-locate their own power generation so they don't rely on the same electric system as the rest of us. That co-location would eliminate the need for new transmission. There are more solutions, please see https://stopmprp.com/how-you-can-help for more information
where can we see the film?	Please sign up for our email newsletter and you will receive a link at 7 PM this evening. We will also release on social media later this evening after the premiere https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/ERUXbml?__cf_chl_tk=rhLUBHNj.WuSv6.3cvq3HsKu8lExtky8i5NkpJudVbc-1726856424-0.0.1.1-8340
This current bill sounds very imporant (prohibition of high-voltage lines in certain areas). I hope people get the gist of the bill and get excited about getting it passed.	Thank you for your support. We have to work together to protect our environment and farms.
What do you think is our biggest hurdle in stopping MPRP Delegate Guyton? What do you hear in Annapolis?	Unfortunately, Del. Guyton could not see the Q&A. I suggest that you reach out to her: Delegate Email: michele.guyton@house.state.md.us Advocate Emails: joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org
Maryellen, this is a wonderful bill and will help increase awareness of these existentially important plants. It will also help promote nursery sales for those	Thanks!

who grow these native plants.	
Could Joanne please provide the statistics she cited. I couldn't get them all down quickly enough. Thanks to the panel for the great quotes.	Susan, can you contact Joanne directly? Also, the video will be up on our website by the end of the week, so you can re-listen. :) mdlegislative.com
Mary Ellen is exactly right. Monarchs are down to less than 5% of the population a few decades ago. Native bees, who pollinate much of our foods, are in serious decline. Nationally birds have declined by 30% over 50 years.	We are definitely not going in the right direction. Change needs to happen.
Regarding the LEEF bill, (IMHO) the bullet points don't include the word "farm" or "farming", which makes the bullet points very vague and hard to understand the focus of the bill.	Lore, you should definitely reach out to Secretary Atticks. They are open to input from constituents.
What are you doing to keep the LEED program equitable for younger or newer farmers that are capital-poor to be able to finance some of the improvements to acquire more points	live answered
What is Kevin's response to MPRP? And data centers?	Hi Susan—although we need additional power, we don't appreciate how this project was imagined/rolled out. We're reviewing the application now that it's been submitted and will be submitting comment re: protecting farms (many of whom the state has already paid to preserve).
This is such an innovative and exciting approach! How would the outreach aspect work to reach	Hello! We'll roll out the program through industry groups (Farm Bureau, Future Harvest, Cultivate + Craft, others), attending meetings and events to discuss.

farmers across the state, including the young ones? Collaboration with any other entities perhaps?	
Is there any consideration for renaming the tiers to be more straightforward like Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum?	Our tentative naming is Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum, but are open to suggestions. We want farmers to aim for the highest tier possible.
Why was there a cap on Clean Air funds set up years ago? Is this where BEPS fees will go?	live answered
Our training center just geared up to prepare our members for brownfield remediation work - we have multiple instructors trained on Hazardous Waste	Thanks, Sam!
How are these bills environmental bills? They sound like a way to collect funds from users - kind of a tax that's not called a tax.	live answered
Are there any upcoming networking or advocate volunteer events coming up??	There will be many events coming up. The Maryland Legislative Coalition sends out everything we know about in our weekly newsletter. Go to our website and click Join Us to get our newsletter. mdlegislative.com