

**Testimony Letter from Mason's Farm and Mason's Heritage Farm re: SB345/HB386**

February 18, 2025

Senate Education, Energy, Environment Committee  
SB345 – Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals - Prohibition  
In SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee:

I am Steve Kraszewski, an owner of our 5<sup>th</sup> generation family farms, Mason's Produce and Mason's Heritage farm in Queen Anne's Co. We farm 900 acres and grow corn, soybeans, and other small grains and vegetables, both conventionally and organically. Myself and my family have spent years growing both conventionally and organic.

**We have proven that we can successfully farm without PFAS pesticides in our toolkit.**  
Marylanders deserve a healthy PFAS-free food supply.

While all farmers are at serious risk from persistent PFAS contamination from neighboring pesticide drift, organic farmers have an added concern: they could lose their organic status if PFAS chemicals are found on their farms, from neighboring aerial drift, runoff or prior use. PFAS pesticides contaminate our food supply and our farmland.

Also of concern to our food supply is the fish and seafood we eat. MDE is already issuing PFAS-based advisories for many fish species, including small mouth bass and other aquatic animals. Will Maryland's Blue Crab be next on that list?

**My experience in both conventional and organic farming is that there simply no need to use any of the roughly 1,000 PFAS pesticides in our toolkit** that are registered in our state. There truly are hundreds of alternative Md-registered pesticides for farmers, that don't contain PFAS chemicals as their active ingredients. All the agricultural products grown in Maryland can be grown profitably without PFAS, as many of us are doing now.

Masons Farms and Mason's Heritage Farm asks for a favorable report on HB386 for the sake of our farms, our farm families, and all Marylanders who depend on us for their food, as well as for the future of Maryland farming.

**Please see the attached sign on letter in support of SB345 supported by 170 Maryland farms.**

Thank you,  
Stephen Kraszewski

## Testimony Letter from 170 Maryland Farmers Supporting SB345

February 18, 2025  
Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee  
SB345: Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals - Prohibition  
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee:

We, the undersigned Maryland farmers from all around the state, grow grain, fruit, vegetables, herbs, meat and meat products, poultry and other food, feed, and fiber, both conventionally and organically, and are in support of **SB345 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibition**.

[Maine's terrible PFAS contamination of more than 70 farms](#) have put some farmers out of business and caused the state to set aside \$60 million dollars to help farms that have tested at unsafe levels of PFAS. While most of these Maine cases are attributed to biosolid applications, **another insidious source is contributing to poisoning farmland: applications of PFAS pesticides.**

We want Maryland to avoid this horrific outcome of its policies.

HB386 protects farmers, our customers, and Maryland from further PFAS contamination and poisoning of irreplaceable resources of our soil and water. PFAS pesticides can contaminate farms from direct applications, but also by aerial drift or runoff from neighboring farmers who unknowingly may be applying these PFAS pesticides. While all farmers are at serious risk from persistent PFAS contamination, organic farmers have an added concern: they could lose their organic status if PFAS chemicals are found on their farms. This could happen from prior use or from these potential pathways of contamination.

**Agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland. We don't think it can continue to be number one if we lose our soil and farmland to PFAS contamination.** There are hundreds of alternative inputs that the agriculture sector can—and *do use*—that don't contain PFAS chemicals as their active ingredients. All the agricultural products grown in Maryland can be grown without PFAS, as many of us are doing now.

We urge a favorable report on SB345 for the sake of our farms, our farm families, and all Marylanders who depend on us for their food, as well as for the future of Maryland farming.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**170 Maryland farmers**, including 150 farm producers from Montgomery Co., signed below and next pages

No.	Farm / Address	Name	Phone / Email	County
1	<b>Cottingham Farm</b> 28038 Goldsborough Neck Rd. Easton, MD 21601	Cleo Braver	443-463-1298 cleo@cottinghamfarm.com	Talbot
2	<b>Mason's Farm Produce</b> 1905 Ruthsburg Rd. Queen Anne, MD 21657	Steve Kraszewski	607-742-3162 masonsheritageinc@gmail.com	Queen Anne's
3	<b>Fox Haven Farm</b> 3630 Poffenberger Rd. Jefferson, MD	Harriett Crosby	301-717-3133 harriettcrosby@aol.com	Frederick
4	<b>Potomac Valley Organics</b> 10866 Bethesda Church Rd Damascus, MD 21872	Leah Mitchell	240-338-0320 potomacvalleyorganics@gmail.com	Montgomery
5	<b>Sassafras Creek Farm, aka Paulk Family Farm</b>	David Paulk	301-247-1002/ 240-538-3670	St. Mary's

	23217 Bayside Rd. Leonardtown, MD 20650		sassafrascreekfarm@gmail.com	
6	<b>Star Bright Farm</b> 2950 Garrett Rd. Whitehall, MD 21161	Peter Elmore	415-533-3106 Peterelmore37@gmail.com	Worcester
7	<b>Where Pigs Fly Farm</b> 131 Indiantown Farm Lane Centerville, MD 21617	Brian Knox	814-233-0305 forests@earthlink.net	Queen Anne's
8	<b>Provident Farm</b> 20980 Nanticoke Rd. Bivalve, MD. 21814	Jay Martin	ubuubok@comcast.net	Wicomico
9	<b>Chicken of the Woods Permaculture Farm, LLC</b> 13405 Pulver Pl, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Bridgette Downer	chickenwoodsfarm@gmail.com	Montgomery
10	<b>Hybridoma Organic Fruit Farm</b> 13734 Baldwin Mill Rd. Baldwin, MD 21013	Robert G. Hamilton	443-386-7619 rhamilt2jhm.edu	Baltimore
11	<b>Bee Friendly Apiary</b> 422 Nottingham Rd Baltimore, MD 21229	William Castro	billiam1969@beefriendlyapiary.com	Baltimore City
12	<b>Elysium Farm</b> 10101 Hayes Landing Rd Berlin MD 21811	Bob Mattie	443-735-8155 elysiumpigs@gmail.com	Worcester
13	<b>Willow Oaks craft cider Country Pleasures Farm</b> 6219 Harley Rd Middletown, Md. 21769	Eric & Lori Rice	countrypleasuresfarm@gmail.com	Frederick
14	<b>Butterbee Farm</b> 500 Tristan Lane Pikesville, MD 21208	Laura Beth Resnick	410.570.5257 butterbeefarm@gmail.com	Baltimore
15	<b>Calliope Farm</b> 5000 Stock Creek Lane, Salisbury, MD 21801	Lisa Garfield	202-717-0217 calliopeorganicfarm@gmail.com	Wicomico
16	<b>Quarter Acre Farm LLC</b> 12745 Ridgely Rd, Greensboro, MD 21639	Andrea Davis-Cetina	415.533.3106 quarterafarm@gmail.com	Caroline
17	<b>Next Step Produce</b> 10615 Benton Road, Newburg MD 20664	Heinz Thomet	301.259.2096 nextstepproduce@gmail.com	Charles
18	<b>The Farm at Our House</b> 3 Duke Ct Rockville, MD 20850	Marc Grossman	202-412-5698 thefarmatourhouse@gmail.com	Montgomery
19	<b>Red Top Farm</b> 1392 West River Road Shady Side, MD 20764	V.K. Holtendorf	410-867-6283 vkay@comcast.net	Anne Arundel
20	<b>Flying Pigs Farm</b> 9233 Bessie Clemson Rd Union Bridge MD 21791	Pam Burke	301-524-3968 flyingpigsorganic@gmail.com	Frederick
21	<b>Montgomery Countryside Alliance</b> P.O. Box 24, Poolesville, Maryland 20837	Caroline Taylor <b>Representing 150 Farm Producers</b>	301-461-9831 caroline@mocoalliance.org	Montgomery