

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
President

ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President

AMALIA HONICK

BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN

MELANIE SHAPIRO

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President

HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
American Jewish Committee
Americans for Peace Now
Baltimore Chapter
American Israel Public Affairs Committee
American Red Magen David for Israel
American Zionist Movement
Amit Women
Association of Reform Zionists of America
Baltimore Board of Rabbis
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
Baltimore Men's ORT
Baltimore Zionist District
Beth Am Congregation
Beth El Congregation
Beth Israel Congregation
Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
Beth Tfiloh Congregation
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
B'nai Israel Congregation
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beit Tikvah
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
Jewish Women International
Jews For Judaism
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Emunah Congregation
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Senate Bill 158 - Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 2, 2023**

SUPPORT

Background: SB158 would phase out the use of pesticides in Maryland that contain PFAS, per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances. Exposure to these “forever chemicals” may lead to serious health impacts. This bill would require all manufacturers of mosquito control products in the state to provide annual independent lab testing and lab certification to document that the pesticide is PFAS-free, beginning January 1, 2024. As of January 1, 2026, manufacturers of all pesticides must provide this same testing to prove the pesticide is PFAS-free.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. Furthermore, Jewish law clearly states that we are not to destroy the public domain, meaning our beautiful State. SB158 falls perfectly in line with these two principles. If passed, this bill would reduce the number of PFAS contaminants in our air, water, and soil, making Maryland safer and healthier for all.

The Baltimore Jewish Council and its faith-based members are committed to the practice of *tikkun olam*. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. One of these entities is *The Pearlstone Center* in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. This bill will directly support the mission of this establishment, by ensuring that the practices at their facility are free from harmful, PFAS-contaminated pesticides.

We encourage this committee to take a major step towards repairing our world and making us a national leader in sustainability. **The Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB158.**

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.