



Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair  
House Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: ***House Bill 1190: Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions - OPPOSED***

**March 13, 2024**

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the House HGO Committee:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Manager Association (MASFMA) and the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter in opposition to House Bill 1190: *Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions*.

The Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA) is a non-profit organization that is composed of sports turf field managers and workers from Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia. As MASFMA members, we partner together to promote education, teamwork, networking, and best practices among our peers and within the Sports Turf Management Industry. Once again, MASFMA has partnered with Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) this year to bring a more unified front from all aspects of our industry. MTC represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers.

As written, House Bill 1190 prohibits a person from selling a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide beginning on June 1, 2025. Beginning on December 31, 2025, the bill would further restrict a person from using a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling.

The use of some of these chemicals is essential to our groups, clients, and end users to keep them safe and to keep their properties in peak performance and appeal. Two of the chemicals that would be banned under House Bill 1190 are: *Bifenthrin* and *Prodiamine*.

The use of Prodiamine on athletic fields can be an integral part of keeping the field safe for the athletes using the field. This product is used as a pre-emergent to keep weeds such as crab grass and goosegrass out of the turf. Crab grass and goose grass are very detrimental and can affect player safety due to their different sheer strengths. If there is a strong strand of either and the player/user turns in the area their foot may hold the turf before it breaks which may lead to non-impact injuries. Banning this chemical without having both a cost effective and chemically effective alternative will not only impact our industry but will detrimentally compromise the integrity of the fields and increase the risks of players' physical safety.

Bifenthrin is an insecticide that is cost effective way of taking care of infestations of various harmful pests. While it's use is not meant for multiple repeated applications as most pests evolve to become

resistant to the active ingredient, mites are a prime example, the use of this product can be a great resource for a first application or a change of mode of action to contain pest that could wipe out various crops and ornamental plants. As part of a proper IPM program this is product can be used in a way that will have little impact to the end user. Taking away this very effective product from landscapers and other professionals can lead to more plants being wiped out as well as driving up costs to consumers.

A few the years ago, MASFMA created and distributed a Best Management Practices (BMP) manual throughout its organization and to members of the Maryland General Assembly. It covers topics to help both managers and workers keep fields safe and playable for athletes of all ages, from children to professionals. Applicators using these specific chemicals are licensed by the state – they are required to complete and successfully pass rigorous testing in order to receive their certifications. When applying these chemicals responsibly by our members, it ensures compliance with best management practices and standards for the protection of the community and the environment.

For these reasons we at MASFMA and MTC oppose House Bill 1190 and respectfully request this committee to give this bill an UNFAVORABLE report.

Thank you,



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Jason Bowers, President - MASFMA



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Patrick Coakley – Vice President - MTC