

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

We respectfully oppose HB 1190, which provides that as of June 2025, a person may not sell a pesticide with a PFAS chemistry as an active ingredient, and may not use them after December 31, 2025. The Animal Health Institute (AHI) is the U.S. trade association for research-based manufacturers of animal health products – the medicines that keep pets and livestock healthy. Animal health companies work to provide veterinarians, food producers and pet owners with high-quality, effective and innovative products.

PFAS, when defined as a class of fluorinated chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom, can inappropriately include the active ingredient in some topical flea and tick products and collars that are regulated as pesticides. While some PFAS chemistries are known to be harmful, the active ingredients in animal health products are just the opposite: they have gone through rigorous safety testing as well as federal agency review, including considering the potential effects on the animal, humans, and the environment, before reaching the market.

No current alternatives to PFAS are available for these animal health products, making the use of PFAS unavoidable and, in fact, vitally important and essential for public health as well as the safety and functioning of society. They are used for prevention and treatment of external parasites (fleas, ticks, mites) that can seriously harm animal health and welfare. These parasites can infect humans and cause disease, either directly, or by transferring diseases (e.g., ticks and Lyme disease, encephalitis). Especially in ‘at-risk’ populations such as the elderly, children, or immunocompromised, some of these diseases can be life threatening. The ability to have pets share our living spaces – without fear of disease-causing infestations is the result of the wide availability of these parasiticides.

We urge you to vote against HB 1190 and allow these necessary animal health products to remain available to your constituents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mandy Hagan  
Director, State Government Affairs