

March 11, 2024



Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Distinguished Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee.

Testimony: Michael Gruber, Executive Vice President Government Relations & Public Policy, Household & Commercial Products Association

RE:HB 1190, Pesticides - PFAS - Prohibitions

On behalf of the Household and Commercial Products Association (HCPA)¹, we submit the following testimony regarding HB 1190 which seeks to ban the use of pesticides that have chemicals listed as active ingredients that would be defined as PFAS, under the definition in the bill. **We respectfully oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable report.**

HCPA members manufacture a variety of products including household cleaning products, air care products, aerosol products, floor polishes and waxes, automotive maintenance and appearance products, and consumer pesticides which includes disinfectants and sanitizers. These products are essential tools for a wide variety of functions necessary to maintain clean and healthy homes and institutional facilities, such as hospitals and schools.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts a rigorous scientific assessment process prior to a pesticide registration. This includes evaluating chemical-specific data to ensure products can be used safely and without unreasonable adverse effects to the environment, when used as directed. Last year, in accordance with SB 158, the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Environment, alongside the US EPA, convened a workgroup to report on PFAS in pesticides. Within the report there were recommendations including allowing Maryland to follow EPA's lead on developing testing methodologies for pesticide formulations. Additionally, the workgroup recommended that the state analyze formulations registered with the Department of Agriculture State Chemist Section to acquire baseline data to make policy determinations.

HCPA is concerned that HB 1190 threatens to put policy ahead of science and undermines the existing regulatory processes of the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the US EPA. HCPA urges your unfavorable report on HB 1190.

¹ The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) is the premier trade association representing companies that manufacture and sell \$180 billion annually of trusted and familiar products used for cleaning, protecting, maintaining, and disinfecting homes and commercial environments. HCPA member companies employ 200,000 people in the U.S. whose work helps consumers and workers to create cleaner, healthier, and more productive lives.