

February 12, 2025

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:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 386, which prohibits registering a pesticide with a PFAS chemistry as an active ingredient from June 1, 2027, and prohibits using them from June 1, 2028. 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. We respectfully oppose this measure.

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 386 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