



Maryland Office
2901 E. Baltimore St
Baltimore, MD 21224

Feb 10, 2025

To: Chair Pena-Melnyk and members of the Maryland House Committee on Health and Government Operation

From: Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland House Bill 386 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions

Audubon Mid-Atlantic submits this testimony in support of House Bill 386. Audubon Mid-Atlantic is the regional office of National Audubon Society, representing over 35,000 Marylanders who advocate for the protection of birds, bird habitat, and policies aiming to protect both birds and human communities in the face of increasing environmental challenges, habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. We work with partner organizations, government agencies, and local communities to protect birds and the places they need to survive now, and into the future. HB 386 will help the state of Maryland take the important step of limiting harmful PFAS chemicals use in pesticides, thus reducing harmful contamination of the food supply for Maryland's human and bird communities.

Science tells us birds are in decline due to habitat loss and climate change, and exposure to pollution and "forever chemicals." 1/3 of all Maryland bird species experienced significant population declines in the past 50 years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that PFAS are harmful to the reproductive process for birds, especially those that primarily eat insects, fish, spiders and invertebrates. This unfortunately means most birds that live or travel through Maryland are exposed to the harmful effects of PFAs. HB 386 will reduce this threat, helping our ecosystems heal and lead to more healthy bird and human populations.

From our Atlantic shoreline and Chesapeake Bay marshes to our urban parks and western Maryland mountains, birds in Maryland face danger by being exposed to PFAS in pesticides. They all travel through or live in areas where pesticides are used. HB 386 will eliminate the serious threats they face from PFAS in pesticides. The law will hold Maryland up as a leader in conservation planning for healthy ecosystems, protecting birds and people now and into the future.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic respectfully urges a favorable review of this legislation.

Thank You

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