

Testimony in Support of HB0386

Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions

Health and Government Operations, Hearing February 13, 2025

Submitted on February 10, 2025

To All Committee Members,

My name is Ray Earnest. I live in Caroline County on the shores of the Choptank River, and I urge a favorable report on HB0386.

This Bill seeks to protect Maryland residents from the documented health effects of PFAS (forever chemicals). Recently, PFAS chemicals were found in the wells of residents in Frederick County. The wells have been closed and the local government seems to be at a loss as to how to resolve the situation. Finding PFAS chemicals in drinking water is a completely predictable result because currently companies that make and install chemicals in pesticides have free reign regarding PFAS ingredients in the state of Maryland.

These 'forever chemicals', are linked to multiple types of cancer and other health impacts and are in pesticides that are sprayed everywhere. According to the EPA, there is no safe level of PFAS chemicals , but they are now in our ground water and in our waterways.

This bill, if enacted, would require, the Department of Agriculture to develop by January, 2026, and then maintain a list of pesticides that have PFAS chemicals listed as active ingredients on the labeling. Additionally, by July, 2026, it would prohibit use of pesticides that have PFAS chemicals their labeling.

Given that we don't know how to remediate PFAS, prohibiting the use of these chemicals in pesticides -- which end up in our ground water and subsequently in our drinking water and our water ways -- is imperative. I support/oppose this bill because I care about our health.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give HB0386 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
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