



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0386 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Ruth

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0386 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

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 in terms of how to resolve the situation. Finding PFAS chemicals in drinking water is a completely predictable result given the free reign that companies that make and install chemicals in everyday products have in the state of Maryland.

These 'forever chemicals', which we all know are linked to multiple types of cancer and other health impacts, are in pesticides that are sprayed everywhere. No great surprise that they would make it into our drinking water.

This bill, if enacted, would require as of January 1, 2026, the Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a list of pesticides that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide. It also prohibits, beginning July 1, 2026, a person from using a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling.

We don't even know how to remediate PFAS from the water, so we are poisoning our own drinking water without even a backup plan. Clearly the manufacturers and the resellers won't be responsible on their own to remove the chemicals, so we must legislate that responsibility. This cannot happen soon enough.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.