



## **HB0386**

### **Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions**

#### **Testimony before Health and Government Operations**

**Hearing February 12, 2025**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Co-Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0386**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a list of certain registered pesticides that list PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on the labeling and eventually ban the use of these pesticides. We thank Delegate Ruth and the rest of the Delegates for their sponsoring of this bill.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS and “forever chemicals”, are a large class of more than 10,000 structurally-related compounds that are used in a variety of consumer products including everything from personal care products and non-stick pans to car seats and carpets. They are also used by industries to make things greaseproof and water resistant.

PFAS is everywhere – in our environment, our food and water, and in our bodies. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) found PFAS in 75% of drinking water it has tested. Now PFAS are being found on the food we grow, introducing another exposure point. PFAS contamination is a huge problem because these chemicals have been associated with human disease, including chronic kidney disease or kidney cancer, reduced antibody responses to vaccinations in both children and adults, increased risk of gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, low birth weight and childhood obesity.

This bill will require a phased in approach eventually leading to a ban of these PFAS pesticides. The first phase will begin with creating a list of pesticides, then banning the use at certain locations, such as health care facilities and schools, and finally leading the banning of selling and using the pesticides in 2028. This will help limit the exposure that towards the Maryland population.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Virginia Smith  
Columbia, MD 21044