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**Written Testimony**  
**House Bill 386 – Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions**  
**Health and Government Operations Committee – February 12, 2025**  
**Support**

**Background:** House Bill 386 would require 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 accompanying the pesticide by January 1, 2026; prohibit a person from using, for certain purposes, PFAS pesticides listed by the Department; and prohibit, beginning June 1, 2028, a person from using PFAS pesticides in the State.

**Written Comments:** The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world.

PFAS are widely used, long-lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. A study that came out just this month has declared that [PFAS forever chemicals can officially be found in Marylanders' blood test results](#). Each year that the legislature continues to overlook this key policy change, we will continue to put our residents at risk for harmful side effects of toxins in their blood.

If passed, this bill would reduce the number of PFAS contaminants in our air, water, and soil, making Maryland safer and healthier for all. **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB386.**

***The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.***