

SB0686_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0686 – FAVORABLE

PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0686, PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has abandoned that mission of protection of our environment.

As reported by Environment America *EPA moves to allow more PFAS in drinking water - The EPA is moving to weaken its own limits on forever chemicals flowing from your kitchen sink*¹

By 2027, a federal rule will require your local water utility to ensure that the water they send to your home has no more than trace amounts of six toxic chemicals that could damage your liver, weaken your immune system and trigger thyroid cancer, among other maladies.

Except now, the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving to weaken that rule, including rescinding the limits for four of those PFAS chemicals and delaying limits on the other two.

Maryland can decide to oppose this anti-science attack on public health by making Marylanders safe from the known harms these chemicals pose to the health of both the environment and to Maryland residents

To accomplish that aim this bill will prohibit manufacturers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or distributing for sale in the State, certain products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals on or after certain dates; establishing registration requirements for certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals; providing for the testing of certain products to determine compliance with the Act; etc.

Until the EPA returns to its original mission Maryland must oppose these ill considered actions and restore the science based former rules.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0686.

¹ <https://environmentamerica.org/articles/epa-moves-to-allow-more-pfas-in-drinking-water/>