

February 20, 2026

Opposition to Senate Bill 686 – PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing almost 700 organizations with over 40,000 employees, I am writing to express my concerns with Senate Bill 686 and how it would directly affect our local businesses, their customers, and our local consumers.

SB 686 would prohibit the sale of numerous products containing intentionally added PFAS beginning in 2028 and 2029, while also requiring product registration, fees, reporting, and potential testing. While we support protecting public health and the environment, the breadth and timeline of this bill raise serious practical challenges for many of our local manufacturing businesses. As you can imagine, many businesses do not have full visibility into chemical inputs several layers deep in the supply chain. Identifying alternatives, testing materials, renegotiating contracts, and adjusting inventory takes time and resources. The timelines proposed in SB 686 do not reflect these realities.

We are also concerned about the scope of the registration requirements and the potential liability placed on importers and distributors if original manufacturers do not have a U.S. presence. This could shift compliance responsibility onto Maryland-based businesses that do not control product formulation.

The state of Maryland is ranked 49th in the country for ease in starting a business, 46th in tax competitiveness, and is the 5th most expensive state to live and run a business. The impact of SB 686 will not help improve these numbers.

We respectfully urge the Committee to carefully consider the economic and operational impacts of SB 686. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to share how this legislation would affect our local economy and consumers. I urge an unfavorable report on SB 686.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM

President & CEO