

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

2314 Benson Mill Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152
phone: 410 472 1466

February 24, 2026

Support SB 686

PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

Support SB 719 Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances -
Regulation

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and EEE Committee Members:

As a mother, professional and decades long resident of Maryland, I advocate for legislation that supports personal and environmental health. This is why I ask for your Favorable vote for both of these non-partisan bills: SB 686 and for the companion bill, SB 719.

Senate Bill 686 is designed to protect Marylanders from PFAS chemicals. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are "forever chemicals" that persist in our environment and accumulate in human bodies. They are linked to cancer, immune suppression, thyroid disease, developmental problems, and contaminated drinking water.

The bill requires transparency through product registration and has a graduated ban on PFAS in everyday products with fines for product violations. It sharply restricts PFAS-containing firefighting foam and prohibits disposal by incineration or landfill. It puts the onus for remediation and clean up on the manufacturer, not the public.

SB719 protects our water supply and reduces PFAS at the source of pollution by restricting PFAS content in sewage sludge. It thereby also protects agriculture, the environment and human health. It restricts land application of sewage sludge

and would require transparency through mandatory monitoring of sludge content.

If the bills become law, Marylanders get a cleaner environment, better farming practices, and safer household, personal-care, and children's products. Please give a Favorable report for both SB 686 and SB 719. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily Tarsell
chriscare@live.com