



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 686 PFAS Chemicals - Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

February 20, 2026

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of SB686** on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection organization on Maryland's Eastern Shore with more than 2,000 members. *Our mission is to protect Maryland's Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, education, and engagement.*

This bill significantly expands Maryland's approach to addressing PFAS contamination by:

1. **Prohibits the sale and distribution of numerous consumer products that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals**, phasing them out beginning in 2028 and 2029 unless deemed a "currently unavoidable use." Covered products include cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, personal care items, feminine hygiene products, juvenile products, textiles, upholstered furniture, ski wax, and more.
2. **Establishes a comprehensive product registration and disclosure program** requiring manufacturers to report PFAS content to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), authorizes product testing and enforcement actions, and
3. **Creates the Maryland PFAS Chemicals Protection and Remediation Fund**, which will support statewide PFAS monitoring, contamination mapping, community assistance, remediation projects, research, enforcement, and grants and loans to public and private entities to address PFAS pollution across Maryland's watersheds.

ShoreRivers supports this legislation because reducing PFAS at the source is essential to protecting our rivers and communities from PFAS contamination. While wastewater treatment plants are major pathways through which PFAS enter surface waters, they are largely passive receivers of PFAS. Much of the PFAS entering our wastewater systems comes from industrial users and everyday household products that are washed down drains, through washing machines, and into treatment plants unequipped to remove these "forever chemicals." **This bill complements prior industrial wastewater-focused legislation by addressing consumer product sources; helping prevent PFAS from entering wastewater systems in the first place.** By pairing product bans, manufacturer accountability, transparency, and dedicated remediation funding, this legislation moves Maryland upstream - where the problem begins, and helps to ensure that wastewater discharges into our rivers are free of PFAS. For these reasons, we urge a **FAVORABLE** report by the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Pluta".

Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper on behalf of:

ShoreRivers

Scott Budden, Executive Director

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper

Ben Ford, Miles Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper