



Testimony on: SB0686 – PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Dave Arndt, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0686, PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0686.

PFAS is a family of 15,000 manmade compounds which are known as "forever chemicals" that accumulate in the body and are linked to significant health risks, including higher cholesterol, immune system suppression (reduced vaccine response), thyroid disease, liver damage, kidney/testicular cancers, and pregnancy-induced hypertension. They can also cause developmental issues in children and reduced fertility. Due to the strong fluorine-carbon bond they do not break down naturally and there are very few and very expensive options to eliminate them from our environment.

We are exposed to PFAS on a daily basis and they are found virtually everywhere on this planet. The only practical way to reduce our exposure to PFAS is by eliminating PFAS from products we use, which will protect consumers and prevent downstream accumulations.

While a total ban is desirable, it is not practical at this time; however, phasing out PFAS use will mitigate exposures and reduce health issues. SB0686 does this by phasing out PFAS use in multiple product areas listed below, and by requiring disclosure and registration with the Maryland Department of the Environment and penalties for non-compliance.

- Jan. 2028: cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, personal care products, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, pet food packaging, juvenile products, intimacy products.
- Jan 2029: fabric treatments, ski wax, textiles, textile furnishings, upholstered furniture, paint.

SB0686 will save thousands of Marylanders' lives and will reduce health care costs by multi-millions of dollars. These chemicals will be with us forever, so now is the time to start reducing our exposure. We urge this committee to issue a FAVORABLE report for SB0686.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
Howard County Indivisible
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Energy Advocates
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland