



Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair
House Health & Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *House Bill 386/Senate Bill 345: Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions - OPPOSED*

February 12, 2025

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the House HGO Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter in opposition to House Bill 386: *Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions*.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) is a non-profit organization that represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers.

As written, House Bill 386 requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a list of certain registered pesticides that list PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide. Beginning on June 1, 2026, the bill would further restrict a person from using a pesticide that has PFAS chemicals listed as an active ingredient on the labeling.

The use of some of these chemicals is essential to our groups, clients, and end users to keep them safe and to keep their properties in peak performance and appeal. Two of the chemicals that would be banned under House Bill 386 are: *Bifenthrin* and *Prodiamine*.

The use of Prodiamine on athletic fields can be an integral part of keeping the field safe for the athletes using the field. This product is used as a pre-emergent to keep weeds such as crab grass and goosegrass out of the turf. Crab grass and goose grass are very detrimental and can affect player safety due to their different sheer strengths. If there is a strong strand of either and the player/user turns in the area their foot may hold the turf before it breaks which may lead to non-impact injuries. Banning this chemical without having both a cost effective and chemically effective alternative will not only impact on our industry but will detrimentally compromise the integrity of the fields and increase the risks of players' physical safety.

Bifenthrin is an insecticide that is cost effective way of taking care of infestations of various harmful pests. While its use is not meant for multiple repeated applications as most pests evolve to become resistant to the active ingredient, mites are a prime example, the use of this product can be a great resource for a first application or a change of mode of action to contain pest that could wipe out various crops and ornamental plants. As part of a proper IPM program this product can be used in a way that will have little impact to the end user. Taking away this very effective product from landscapers and other professionals can lead to more plants being wiped out as well as driving up costs to consumers.

Applicators using these specific chemicals are licensed by the state – they are required to complete and successfully pass rigorous testing in order to receive their certifications. When applying these chemicals responsibly by our members, it ensures compliance with the best management practices and standards for the protection of the community and the environment.

For these reasons MTC opposes House Bill 386 and respectfully requests this committee to give this bill an UNFAVORABLE report.

Thank you,



Brandon Sands, President
Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC)