

Testimony Letter from Maryland Farmers re: HB386

February 12, 2025
House Health & Government Operations Committee
HB386: Pesticides – PFAS Chemicals - Prohibition
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee:

We, the undersigned Maryland farmers from all around the state, grow grain, fruit, vegetables, herbs, meat and meat products, poultry and other food, feed, and fiber, both conventionally and organically, and are in support of **HB386 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibition.**

[Maine's terrible PFAS contamination of more than 70 farms](#) have put some farmers out of business and caused the state to set aside \$60 million dollars to help farms that have tested at unsafe levels of PFAS. While most of these Maine cases are attributed to biosolid applications, **another insidious source is contributing to poisoning farmland: applications of PFAS pesticides.**

We want Maryland to avoid this horrific outcome of its policies.

HB386 protects farmers, our customers, and Maryland from further PFAS contamination and poisoning of irreplaceable resources of our soil and water. PFAS pesticides can contaminate farms from direct applications, but also by aerial drift or runoff from neighboring farmers who unknowingly may be applying these PFAS pesticides. While all farmers are at serious risk from persistent PFAS contamination, organic farmers have an added concern: they could lose their organic status if PFAS chemicals are found on their farms. This could happen from prior use or from these potential pathways of contamination.

Agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland. We don't think it can continue to be number one if we lose our soil and farmland to PFAS contamination. There are hundreds of alternative inputs that the agriculture sector can—and *do use*—that don't contain PFAS chemicals as their active ingredients. All the agricultural products grown in Maryland can be grown without PFAS, as many of us are doing now.

We urge a favorable report on HB386 for the sake of our farms, our farm families, and all Marylanders who depend on us for their food, as well as for the future of Maryland farming.

Respectfully Submitted,
169 Maryland farmers, including 150 farm producers from Montgomery Co., signed below and next pages

No.	Farm / Address	Name	Phone / Email	County
1	Cottingham Farm 28038 Goldsborough Neck Rd. Easton, MD 21601	Cleo Braver	443-463-1298 cleo@cottinghamfarm.com	Talbot
2	Mason's Farm Produce 1905 Ruthsburg Rd. Queen Anne, MD 21657	Steve Kraszewski	607-742-3162 masonsheritageinc@gmail.com	Queen Anne's
3	Fox Haven Farm 3630 Poffenberger Rd. Jefferson, MD	Harriett Crosby	301-717-3133 harrietcrosby@aol.com	Frederick
4	Potomac Valley Organics 10866 Bethesda Church Rd Damascus, MD 21872	Leah Mitchell	240-338-0320 potomacvalleyorganics@gmail.com	Montgomery
5	Sassafras Creek Farm, aka Paulk Family Farm	David Paulk	301-247-1002/ 240-538-3670	St. Mary's

	23217 Bayside Rd. Leonardtown, MD 20650		sassafras creek farm@gmail.com	
6	Star Bright Farm 2950 Garrett Rd. Whitehall, MD 21161	Peter Elmore	415-533-3106 Peterelmore37@gmail.com	Worcester
7	Where Pigs Fly Farm 131 Indiantown Farm Lane Centerville, MD 21617	Brian Knox	814-233-0305 forests@earthlink.net	Queen Anne's
8	Provident Farm 20980 Nanticoke Rd. Bivalve, MD. 21814	Jay Martin	ubuubok@comcast.net	Wicomico
9	Chicken of the Woods Permaculture Farm, LLC 13405 Pulver Pl, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Bridgette Downer	chickenwoods farm@gmail.com	Montgomery
10	Hybridoma Organic Fruit Farm 13734 Baldwin Mill Rd. Baldwin, MD 21013	Robert G. Hamilton	443-386-7619 rhamilt2jhmiedu	Baltimore
11	Bee Friendly Apiary 422 Nottingham Rd Baltimore, MD 21229	William Castro	billiam1969@beefriendlyapiary.com	Baltimore City
12	Elysium Farm 10101 Hayes Landing Rd Berlin MD 21811	Bob Mattie	443-735-8155 elysiumpigs@gmail.com	Worcester
13	Willow Oaks craft cider Country Pleasures Farm 6219 Harley Rd Middletown, Md. 21769	Eric & Lori Rice	countrypleasures farm@gmail.com	Frederick
14	Butterbee Farm 500 Tristan Lane Pikesville, MD 21208	Laura Beth Resnick	410.570.5257 butterbeefarm@gmail.com	Baltimore
15	Calliope Farm 5000 Stock Creek Lane, Salisbury, MD 21801	Lisa Garfield	202-717-0217 calliopeorganic farm@gmail.com	Wicomico
16	Quarter Acre Farm LLC 12745 Ridgely Rd, Greensboro, MD 21639	Andrea Davis-Cetina	415.533.3106 quarterafarm@gmail.com	Caroline
17	Next Step Produce 10615 Benton Road, Newburg MD 20664	Heinz Thomet	301.259.2096 nextstepproduce@gmail.com	Charles
18	The Farm at Our House 3 Duke Ct Rockville, MD 20850	Marc Grossman	202-412-5698 thefarmatourhouse@gmail.com	Montgomery
19	Red Top Farm 1392 West River Road Shady Side, MD 20764	V.K. Holtzendorf	410-867-6283 vkay@comcast.net	Anne Arundel
20	Montgomery Countryside Alliance P.O. Box 24, Poolesville, Maryland 20837	Caroline Taylor Representing 150 Farm Producers	301-461-9831 caroline@mocoalliance.org	Montgomery