

February 10, 2025

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Testimony on: HB0386: Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions

Position: Support

MOM's Organic Market

6120 Executive Blvd Suite #600

Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairwoman Peña-Melnyk and members of the committee,

MOM's Organic Market is committed to protecting and restoring the environment through responsible sourcing and sustainable practices.

PFAS-pesticides pose a serious, long-term threat to our environment. These “forever chemicals” do not break down, contaminating our soil, water, and ecosystems. With over 1,000 PFAS-containing pesticides registered for sale in Maryland, they are sprayed on fields, run off into the Chesapeake Bay, and accumulate in fish and wildlife. Recent water testing has found PFAS levels exceeding federal health advisories by tens of thousands of times, putting both our natural resources and our \$600 million seafood industry at risk.

PFAS pesticides degrade into even more toxic PFAS chemicals like TFA, which cannot be removed from drinking water. The good news? These pesticides are unnecessary. Maryland already registers thousands of effective alternatives—92% of pesticides on the market today do not contain PFAS.

Leading farms, including those that supply MOM's Organic Market, have already proven that abundant, high-quality food can be grown without PFAS contamination.

The success of MOM's Organic Market- now with 25 stores in the DMV region and beyond, underscores that the public is concerned and that there are a growing number of farms MOM's relies on, proving capacity of growing food that is both PFAS-free and pesticide-free.

Maryland has the opportunity to take action now—before the damage becomes irreversible. We urge the committee to support House Bill 386 and Senate Bill 345 to eliminate these unnecessary, toxic chemicals from our environment.

Thank you for your time.