



June 18, 2026

The PA House Consumer Protection Committee,

I am reaching out on behalf of PD Avengers to share our strong support for House Bill 1135, which would ban the use of paraquat in Pennsylvania.

PD Avengers is a global alliance of people with Parkinson's, our partners, families, friends, clinicians, researchers, and advocates working together to end Parkinson's disease. We add urgency to research, wellness, and advocacy by uniting people and organizations around the world to demand change in how Parkinson's is seen, treated, prevented, and ultimately ended.

Our organization writes in strong support of HB 1135.

Paraquat is an extremely toxic pesticide that has been linked to Parkinson's disease. Studies have shown that people who work in fields where paraquat is sprayed, or who live near those fields, face increased risk of developing Parkinson's. This is not only a farmworker issue. It is a public health issue for rural families, nearby communities, and future generations.

Paraquat is so dangerous that it has already been banned in more than 70 countries, including major agricultural-producing nations. Yet it can still be used in Pennsylvania. That is unacceptable.

Last month, Vermont became the first state in the nation to ban paraquat. Pennsylvania now has the opportunity to show similar leadership by putting farmers, farmworkers, rural communities, wildlife, waterways, and public health first.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has failed to act with the urgency this issue demands. States have stepped up before to protect people from toxic threats such as asbestos, PFAS, and lead when federal action lagged. Pennsylvania should do the same with paraquat.

On behalf of PD Avengers and the global Parkinson's community, we urge the committee to support HB 1135 and move this important legislation forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

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