



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 12, 2020

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB229 - Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 229. This bill bans the use of Chlorpyrifos in Maryland starting October 1, 2020. This includes insecticides that include Chlorpyrifos and seeds treated with Chlorpyrifos.

Chlorpyrifos is sometimes used on non-GMO corn, but since there isn't much non-GMO corn grown in Maryland, one of the main uses in Maryland is in Orchards. They use it only once a year either post-harvest or during the tree's dormant stage. Most contract vegetable growers are required to use seeds treated with Chlorpyrifos as well. In Vineyards, Chlorpyrifos is the only treatment against the Spotted Lanternfly.

Losing the ability to use a pesticide of last resort as Chlorpyrifos is in several cases, severely limits the farmer's ability to address pest invasions and therefore puts the farmer's crop and his/her livelihood in jeopardy. The use of pesticides should be **regulated** using sound science and fully vetting the product, not **legislated** by individuals that are not educated in the subject matter to properly vet whether to allow the pesticide or not.

MFB Policy: We believe the use of pesticides should be regulated by available facts, not on emotional issues. We urge keeping all federally labeled crop protection products legal in the state, counties and municipalities.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 229

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396