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BILL NO.: **HB 229**

TITLE: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 12, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 229 – Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition. This bill would prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos in the State, and would require the Department of Agriculture to provide education and assistance related to pest management to farmers, crop advisors and pesticide applicators.

Chlorpyrifos targets the same chemical pathways in the body that sarin gas and other nerve agents do. In high doses, the chemical can cause vomiting, abdominal pain, and headaches. Individuals can be exposed to chlorpyrifos through direct contact or by inhaling it. Farm workers are at the highest risk for exposure, as they generally handle the chemical on a daily basis. Reports from Columbia University also point to chlorpyrifos having a detrimental effect on children’s developing brains. Additionally, the chemical is extremely toxic to wildlife, pollinators, and fish—a threat to Maryland’s robust seafood industry.

While it is past time that Maryland take steps to protect both human beings and our natural resources from the effects of this poisonous chemical, it is also necessary that we provide other options to individuals and organizations who have utilized chlorpyrifos in the past. Fortunately, HB 229 also does this, laying the groundwork for a safer, more sustainable Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 229. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.