



DELMARVA POULTRY INDUSTRY, INC.

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Date: February 12, 2020
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 229 – Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition - **Oppose**

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), the 1,700-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware opposes HB 229 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

HB 229 has both direct and indirect impacts on the poultry industry. Chlorpyrifos is an important insecticide used to manage resistance in insect species, and especially the darkling beetle. This pest is often found in poultry houses and can cause damage in the wood structures and between walls, carry diseases that impact the health of the birds and create feed loss in the houses. The use of chlorpyrifos is important as a tool in integrated pest management practices that our growers use. HB 229 would limit a resource to our growers. And this insecticide is only applied by certified pesticide applicators that have passed several tests and participated in continuous education. This includes growers and outside consultants.

Chlorpyrifos may also be used by grain producers to control for root worms and soil pests in corn and spider mites in soybeans. This is a very important tool for farmers that grow both genetically modified (GMO) and non-GMO corn, and the poultry companies need both types of feed. In 2019, the Delmarva poultry companies used over 89 million bushels of corn and 38 million bushels of soybeans for feed, with most being provided by our farmers in Delmarva. It is often stated that on Maryland's Eastern Shore the industry is comprised like a three-legged stool – the poultry growers, the poultry companies and the grain farmers – and if any one of the legs of that stool were to fall, there would be issues. HB 229 would limit our grain farmers in their pesticide management, possibly producing less bushels for grain and soybeans.

Finally, DPI has concerns with precedent that our legislator is setting in opposing the regulatory and scientific process that determines what pesticides should be used in our state. Before a product can be labeled and sold in Maryland, it receives rigorous scientific review, evaluation and approval by federal experts and outside scientists on health and safety standards. This process often takes years and is in addition to the research the companies also conduct. DPI feels the decision of prohibiting pesticides should be left to the scientific experts.

We urge an unfavorable vote on HB 229.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dpichicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.