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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 229 - Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition

Environment and Transportation

February 12, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 229 (HB229) would prohibit the use of Chlorpyrifos in the State of Maryland. Whether Chlorpyrifos are found in insecticides or in seeds that have been treated with the pesticide, all forms would no longer be permitted to be used. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture would be required to provide farmers and others effected by this prohibition with assistance finding alternatives to Chlorpyrifos.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* teaches us to repair the world in which we live in. Furthermore, Jewish law clearly states that we are not to destroy the public domain, meaning our State. HB229 falls perfectly in line with these two principles. If passed, this bill would immediately start the process of reversing generations of damage that have contributed significantly to the decline of the Chesapeake Bay, and other natural treasures in Maryland. The Baltimore Jewish Council and its faith-based members are committed to repairing our world, in accordance with *tikkun olam*. As the legislative arm of The Associated Jewish Community Federation, we represent two organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD is a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. Jewish Volunteer Connection engages the Jewish Community to participate in service projects, many of which center on sustainability, waste reduction, and the rebuilding of our environment. We encourage this committee to take a major step towards repairing our world and making us a national leader in sustainability.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB229.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.