



# Fair Farms<sup>®</sup> Maryland

a campaign for healthy food, land & waterways

## **Support for House Bill 229 (Delegate Stein) Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition**

February 12, 2020

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 229, sponsored by Delegate Stein, that bans the use of the harmful pesticide, chlorpyrifos. The Fair Farms campaign of Waterkeepers Chesapeake brings together consumers, farmers, public health professionals, and conservationists to advocate for a food system that is equitable, fair to farmers, invests in homegrown healthy foods, and restores our waterways

We are a growing movement of over 35,000 Marylanders and close to 200 partners across the state. These partners include national organizations like Farm Aid, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Family Farm Defenders, and National Family Farm Coalition.

We strongly support House Bill 229 because it will play an integral role in protecting the health of our communities and environment. This insecticide has been linked to many health issues including developmental delays in children as well as nausea, dizziness, convulsions, and even death in adults, particularly farmworkers. As a campaign that prioritizes public health and the health of our food, land, and waterways, it is imperative that we pass this ban in order to protect our communities and the environment in which we live.

We work with farmers across Maryland who are able to make a living while showing that chlorpyrifos is not a necessary step in growing nutritious food. They rely on other practices and products to address pest pressures on their farms. The majority of our farmer partners are in favor of this ban and share a concern about the brain-damaging impact of this pesticide, including Even' Star Farm and Sassafras Creek Farm in Southern Maryland, Bay Water Greens and Groundworks Farm on the Eastern Shore, and Cedar Rock Farm in Western Maryland. Some of our partner farmers even have children with learning disabilities and children on the autism spectrum—a lifelong struggle for them and their children.

We have the opportunity in Maryland to be leaders on this critical issue. I urge a favorable report on HB 229 and ask that you do all you can to ensure the Chlorpyrifos Ban is passed in 2020.

Sincerely,  
Shelby Kalm  
Fair Farms Campaign Manager