



February 12, 2020

RE: In Support of HB 229: Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition

Dear Chairman Kumar Barve, Vice Chairman Dana Stein and Members of House Environmental & Transportation Committee,

MOM's Organic Market would like to express our **support for HB 229** to ban the use of chlorpyrifos in Maryland.

Chlorpyrifos is not necessary to grow food, it has disastrous and long term effects on the environment, wildlife and pollinators, and it is highly toxic to humans. Banning chlorpyrifos plays an integral role in protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay and we are asking you to put our residents and environment before pesticides and profits. We urge you to support HB 229 and ensure that Maryland continues to stay a strong environmental leader.

As a thriving local grocer with 19 stores, and 400,000 customers each month, we know what Maryland residents want and they are steadily demanding food that does not impact the air that they breathe or the land and streams that their children play in. We prove every day that dangerous chemicals like chlorpyrifos are not in any way necessary to produce food, as evidenced by our store shelves (all chlorpyrifos free) and our 100% organic produce section.

Chlorpyrifos has been linked to health issues, including developmental delays in children, as well as nausea, dizziness, convulsions, and even death in adults, particularly farmworkers. Moreover, farmers have many other powerful options to protect crops from pest damage that don't endanger their health or the health of the environment and local communities.

Evidence of this dangerous chemical is so compelling that scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency have already concluded that it should be banned altogether. Yet, despite this information, then EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt made the decision to deny a petition to ban chlorpyrifos from being used in food production. A recent 9th Circuit Court ruling that EPA must ban chlorpyrifos is being challenged by EPA at an upcoming rehearing of the full court.

We have the opportunity in Maryland to be leaders on this critical issue during. The passing of this bill has never been more urgently needed. MOM's Organic Market urges you to stand up for the bay, the bees, Maryland residents and our local farmers and support HB 229. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexandra DySard

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