



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Support

HB 229 Pesticides-Use of Chlorpyrifos

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 12, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Rev. Kathy Shahinian, Legislative Liaison for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and we are here to support HB 229.

Chlorpyrifos is a toxic nerve agent pesticide known to harm children's brain development, contaminate waterways and harm wildlife. The US Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that Chlorpyrifos is unsafe.

Our environmental vision is that all Marylanders – especially our children, will be safer when this harmful chemical is completely banned. Our streams and rivers as well wildlife will be protected and alternatives to toxic chemicals can be used to control vermin.

Our faith mission mandates us to “Choose life that you and your descendants may live.” (Leviticus 30:19) Caring for creation means striving for justice and peace among all people by living in mindful, ethical, and humane relationship with the earth, its resources, and the life it supports, and by seeking to restore a healthy environment in the face of problems such as pollution and climate change that diminish the health, safety, and economic well-being of all people.

The time is now to ban this toxic chemical and protect the water communities, wild life and future. We respectfully request a favorable report for HB 229.