



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 11, 2020

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition -SB 300 – SUPPORT

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental affairs Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our thousands of members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Environment & Transportation Committee vote favorably for Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition - SB 300.

This bill would ban the use of chlorpyrifos including insecticides and seeds treated with the chemical. It would also require the Department of Agriculture to use existing budget resources to educate farmers, crop advisors and pest applicators with pest management.

Chlorpyrifos is toxic to many species of birds including robins, grackles, pigeons, and Mallard ducklings. In addition to laying fewer eggs, the eggshells of those eggs laid by Mallards are thinner than normal, so fewer ducklings survive. Chlorpyrifos is not only toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates, but also it builds up in the tissues of fish and animals who consume those fish and animals. This contamination by chlorpyrifos goes up the food chain in a process called bioaccumulation. Chlorpyrifos is also toxic to bees and earthworms, lasting days to weeks after its application.

Originally banned at the federal level by the Obama Administration in 2017, the ban was reversed before it went into effect by the Trump Administration. This was despite the fact that in 2017 The US Fish and Wildlife Service found that chlorpyrifos was so toxic that it would “jeopardize the existence” of more than 1200 endangered species including including birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Hawaii, California, and New York have moved to phase out the use of chlorpyrifos and similar legislation is under consideration in Connecticut, Oregon and the State of Washington. Last year, a bill to ban chlorpyrifos in Maryland passed the House but stalled in the Senate. Let's make 2020 Maryland's year.

I thank for Senator Lam for sponsoring this bill, and urge a favorable report on SB 300.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

WWW.VOTEANIMALS.ORG