

The Cannon Club
699 Mt. Zion Marlboro Rd.
Lothian, Md. 20711

February 7, 2020
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 west Wing
11 Baden St.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB229 and HB300. Chlorpyrifos is only one of two insecticides currently registered by the EPA to control the adult life stage of the Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW). The only other product registered to control the adult life stage of this devastating pest is Bifenthrin; which is highly susceptible to resistance.

The ABW has a unique ability to develop a resistance over time to the products used to control the various life stages of this pest if used repeatedly. This is why rotating different chemistries is very important to reducing the populations of this pest. As a responsible steward of the environment, I never apply more than two applications of the same chemical family in the same year to my greens, tees and fairways for the control of the ABW and this includes Chlorpyrifos. Based on this strategy, Chlorpyrifos is used sparingly and responsibly. Until we have a replacement chemistry to control the adult of this destructive pest, the removal of Chlorpyrifos would be devastating to the golf industry.

If Chlorpyrifos is taken away from us, there is no doubt that the turf quality will decline and we will be forced to re-grass these areas; which will require more inputs like fertilizer, fungicides and herbicides to remove weeds where the turf has been damaged. If the damage is severe, it is not unreasonable to think that there will be added erosion that would go against all the efforts of the Chesapeake Bay foundations and other organizations have implemented to try to clean up our Bay.

As a manager of a golf course, I am always looking for ways to reduce inputs into the golf course which is better for the environment and more sustainable for the golf course while providing our members and guests with a quality product for their recreation.

All of us in the golf course industry have adopted Best Management Practices for our facilities to preserve our environment and reduce inputs. The current tools we have are very important to preserving the open space that we all enjoy. When new and improved chemistries/products are brought to market, we adopt them to achieve better results while reducing inputs of pesticides into the environment.

Golf Course Superintendents are well educated and good stewards of the environment. I hope you consider all the facts and industries affected before making a final decision to ban the use of Chlorpyrifos.

Sincerely,
Marlin L. Ewing Jr.
Golf Course Superintendent
The Cannon Club