

February 10,2020

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee: I am hoping you can vote against the SB-300 bill. The banning of “chlorpyrifos” at this time is going to put a burden on the Agricultural community by forcing them to use products that are not as well-known as chlorpyrifos. They are also not as effective and therefore may be more hazardous because of the need to overuse them to get the same results. Chlorpyrifos is not as widely used as it has been because of the GMO corn that now protects itself from the corn “rootworm”, it is however used to protect stored wheat as well as in the Orchards and Vegetable Farms to protect those crops as well. There are 9 new products that are on the market now but the use of those products is still being learned by the farmers, and if we can just have it regulated until we get up to speed on the new products that would be a tremendous help to us. **We are all regulated in the agricultural business by our “Pesticide Licenses” that are renewed annually, and the product is only sold to someone that has a “Pesticide License”.** We will eventually get to where we don’t need the Chlorpyrifos and then the need for that product will eliminate itself. If the bill can be modified to just continue the regulation for just a while longer, the benefits will easily outweigh the dangers for a short period of time.

Thank You for your consideration on this,

Howie Feaga, former president of the Ho. Co. Farm
Bureau. *Howie Feaga*