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Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: SB300 - Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition - OPPOSED

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Carroll County, I write in opposition to SB300 – Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition.

Farmers in Carroll County are the largest growers of green beans, west of the Chesapeake Bay. This ban of a federally-approved crop protectant will have a significantly detrimental effect on our farmers. Chlorpyrifos are used primarily to treat seeds; using untreated seed tends to lead to reduced yields and reduced quality. Brokers often require the use of treated seed, which could lead to lost contracts as brokers move to states without such a ban, as is happening with 2021 contracts in New York. It is also the only product registered to control spider mite in dry weather. Chlorpyrifos are not applied by air, as is done in California. Durisban is the only product effective on the peach borer, and it is applied only in the Fall, directly to the tree trunk. The product is not needed in large quantities to be effective. When used responsibly, per its label instructions, it is an important aid to productive farming.

For these reasons Carroll County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Roberta J. Windham Esq.
County Administrator