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Carroll County Government

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February 11, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: HB229 - Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition - OPPOSED

Dear Delegate Barve and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Carroll County, I write in opposition to HB229 – 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roberta J. Windham".

Roberta J. Windham Esq.
County Administrator