

NAVAL ACADEMY GOLF ASSOCIATION

566 BROWNSON ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402

February 10, 2020

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Stein

Pesticide – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition

Dear Delegate Stein:

I am writing on behalf of the Naval Academy Golf Club and our opposition to House 229, which is to ban chlorpyrifos. This insecticide is an essential tool we use at the course to combat annual bluegrass weevil. This insect does significant damage to the annual bluegrass greens we have at the Naval Academy and if gone untreated, the catastrophic loss of turf on our greens would be extremely detrimental to ability to use the property. Additionally, this could cause unnecessary problems for the Midshipmen Golf Team as this is their home course, requiring the team to play matches elsewhere if the greens are damaged beyond repair. Everyone would agree this would be incredibly unfortunate to displace such an important group of individuals who have given so much to our country. Chlorpyrifos is one of the tools used to manage the pest and we make a maximum of two applications annually; during the spring for control of the annual bluegrass weevil. If we are unable to use this chemical to fit this pest, we will end up with resistance issues with the other pesticide that manages this pest. Having two chemistries to use in rotation ensures that we do not have resistance issues in the future. Please consider all the evidence before banning this important tool for the golf industry.

Sincerely,

Eric David

Golf Course Superintendent

United States Naval Academy Golf Club