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**HB 229**

February 12, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** House Bill 229 – Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 229.

HB 229 prohibits the sale of chlorpyrifos and insecticides containing the chemical, and requires the Department of Agriculture to provide education and assistance on pest management.

Chlorpyrifos is a commonly used pesticide that was been linked to lung cancer,<sup>1</sup> autoimmune disorders, and disruption in childhood development.<sup>2</sup> In 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency had proposed a rule banning its sale and use, and though it did not follow through, the Agency agreed that it “would continue to monitor the safety of chlorpyrifos through 2022.”<sup>3</sup> Coincidentally, the largest manufacturer of chlorpyrifos, Corteva Agriscience will discontinue its production.<sup>4</sup>

Although its applications are limited in Baltimore City, chlorpyrifos is in the City’s tributaries and watersheds.<sup>5</sup> The Baltimore Sun reported, “[a] Chesapeake Bay Program report found chlorpyrifos in 90 percent of bay water samples analyzed for this chemical, and 40 percent

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<sup>1</sup> Chlorpyrifos. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Chlorpyrifos>

<sup>2</sup> Friedman, L. (2019, July 18). E.P.A. Won't Ban Chlorpyrifos, Pesticide Tied to Children's Health Problems. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/18/climate/epa-chlorpyrifos-pesticide-ban.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Brady Dennis, J. E. (2020, February 7). Trump has kept this controversial pesticide on the market. Now its biggest manufacturer is stopping production. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/02/06/trump-kept-this-controversial-pesticide-market-now-its-biggest-manufacturer-is-stopping-production/>

<sup>5</sup> Stein, D., & Nathan-Pulliam, S. (2019, June 7). Protect Maryland: Ban chlorpyrifos. Retrieved from <https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/op-ed/bs-ed-op-0201-ban-chlorpyrifos-20190131-story.html>

of those had concentrations that exceeded thresholds indicating possible ecological effects.”<sup>6</sup> Although, Corteva Agriscience is no longer a manufacturer of chlorpyrifos, the product is still on retail shelves and in the storage units of agribusinesses throughout Maryland, leaving the door open for even more pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and associated negative public health outcomes.

Baltimore City’s Council is aware of the potential negative environmental and health impacts associated with pesticides. The Council recently introduced Council Bill #20-0495, “Pesticide Control and Regulation,” to curb the use of glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and neonicotinoids. Unfortunately, whereas the Maryland Department of the Environment is well-versed on these pesticides, most local governments like Baltimore City have inadequate infrastructure and resources to adequately address the wide-scale application and sale of said products. Regardless, action must be taken to protect Baltimoreans, and Marylanders at large.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 300.

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<sup>6</sup> *Id.*