



## **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMENT**

**DATE: 2/13/2018      BILL NO.: SB 500**

**SUBJECT:                    Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition**

**COMMITTEE:            EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**MDA POSITION:        WRITTEN OPPOSITION**

#### **EXPLANATION:**

SB 500 would ban the use of insecticides that contains Chlorpyrifos in the state of Maryland.

#### **COMMENT:**

MDA is strongly committed to ensuring a healthy environment for all Marylanders, and making sure that products such as Chlorpyrifos are registered with the state and are being used in a lawful manner. MDA enforces the federal registration of pesticide products at the state level. To date, MDA has 48 products with 19 registrants in the state that use Chlorpyrifos. These products are used in a wide range of industries with the primary uses in agriculture for row crops, including non-GMO corn. However, other industries including manufacturing, landfills, storage areas, railroads, and construction may all utilize Chlorpyrifos on a case by case basis. It is considered a valuable tool in the tool box to combat pests, such as fire ants, root worms, and termites.

It is MDA's position that EPA has always taken the lead on pesticide registration and labeling issues. They can and have canceled or changed pesticide product registrations and product labeling to protect the environment, human health, wildlife, and pollinators. EPA has the resources, expertise and reach to evaluate the vast volume of data and information available worldwide to assess pesticide risk. MDA also feels that this ban would create confusion in the distribution chain and market place. In our experience, complicating the regulatory environment compromises compliance by even those who want to do the right thing.

Additional fiscal and operational burden may also occur if SB 500 were to pass. MDA also would be required to inspect locations in the state of Maryland that sell pesticide products in order to enforce the pesticide use and sale provisions of SB 500 . This bill does not include any additional funding source to carry out the provisions of the bill. The Pesticide Regulation Section is entirely specially and federally funded. If SB 500 is passed without additional funding to carry out its provisions, special fund expenditures would be directed away from existing enforcement and education activities, and federal funding could be compromised.

**MDA requests an unfavorable report on SB 500.**