

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear President Ferguson:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 300 – *Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition*.

Senate Bill 300 prohibits a person from using chlorpyrifos, including insecticides that contain chlorpyrifos and seeds that have been treated with chlorpyrifos, effective December 31, 2020, with exemptions allowing some uses until June 30, 2021, and allowing certain other specifically authorized uses until December 31, 2021.

Following discussions earlier this year with agricultural leaders, farmers, and legislators, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) crafted reasonable and responsible regulations to phase out all use of chlorpyrifos by 2021. This regulatory action is in the best interest of the agriculture industry and the environment, and will protect the independence and integrity of MDA's robust science-based regulatory authority and framework. The emergency regulations became effective on March 27 and published in the Maryland Register on April 24. Because of this regulatory action which has already occurred, Senate Bill 300 has been rendered moot.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 300.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor