Maryland Updates: Chlorpyrifos Ban & Pollinator Protection

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SB 300
Chlorpyrifos Ban and Governor’s Veto

- SB 300 to ban chlorpyrifos passed in the Senate and House with bipartisan support
- Was among over 30 vetoes by the Governor in 2020

SB 300 Chlorpyrifos Ban in Maryland is needed to protect our babies, bees and Bay from toxic effects the EPA found to be so dangerous, that it ruled to ban ALL uses ... until the current administration overturned that decision in one of its first actions.
Why we need SB300 as law

• The pesticide industry favors regulations

• Late in the legislative session, the Hogan administration opted to go with regulation of chlorpyrifos.

• Despite that, the bill was passed by the Maryland General Assembly

• Regulations and executive orders do not have the power of law, as seen with chlorpyrifos in New York and California
Pesticide industry considers regulations and executive orders a WIN

- Pesticide industry understands the strength of law in legislative bans and so it supports regulations and executive orders that are weaker and changeable.
- The industry promoted regs in NY and executive order in CA to avoid the power of a chlorpyrifos ban by law.
- Hawaii has the strength of law.
- Maryland needs the protection of law, too.

A movement is growing to override the veto in the 2021 Maryland General Assembly.
Pollinator Protection

- Neonicotinoids are highly toxic to pollinators—bees, birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and aquatic life, including crabs
- Neonics persist—a single application can poison for years
- Nationally, 2019-20 had the 2nd highest honeybee mortality and the highest summer mortality in history

As our state experienced some of the highest bee losses in the nation, the Maryland General Assembly acted to protect pollinators and our food supply.

Passed in 2016, the Pollinator Protection Act banned consumer use of neonic-containing home lawn & garden products.

The law went into effect Jan. 2018 making these products illegal to sell to the public.
Citizen Collaboration

- Pollinator Protection Squad volunteers spot checked stores still carrying illegal products
- Collaborated with MDA to help them be more focused on where to investigate problems
- Good news! Lots of new organic and non-toxic options had replaced many highly toxic products
A Dangerous Loophole

- Bad news: Pollinator Squad found roughly 25% of stores still selling illegal products
- In 2020, a loophole was discovered allowing RUPs—Restricted Use Pesticide suppliers—to continue sales to consumers
- Applies to over 100 stores—including all Target stores, Southern States, The Mill and others that consumers use
- Assessment is ongoing…