

December 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to applaud the work of your Administration in maintaining the longstanding approval of an important insecticide – chlorpyrifos, which is one of the most widely used pest control products in the world. As organizations representing thousands of American farmers and users of chlorpyrifos, we greatly appreciate your Administration’s efforts to maintain this vital ingredient in the marketplace using sound, credible science.

Recent news coverage has painted a negative picture of chlorpyrifos that is inaccurate and misleading. Authorized uses of chlorpyrifos consistent with the requirements the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed via product labels offer wide margins of protection for human health and safety. The current EPA regulatory safety standard for chlorpyrifos rests on five decades of experience in use, health surveillance of manufacturing workers and applicators and over 4,000 studies and reports have examined the product in terms of health, safety and the environment.

Chlorpyrifos is used in 45 states on over 50 different types of crops, including cereal, oilseeds, forage, fruit, nut, and vegetable crops, and on golf courses and in forests. For many invasive pests, growers face limited or no viable alternatives to chlorpyrifos. When an outbreak of a new pest occurs, users look to chlorpyrifos as a proven first-line of defense. Pesticides such as chlorpyrifos provide critical risk management tools to farmers and help improve food production, protect health and safety, and ensure a vital and productive supply of food and fiber to our nation and world markets.

Under the previous Administration, EPA was altering the methodology and process for evaluating potential risk and regulation of pesticides. Numerous stakeholders, scientific experts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and even EPA’s own Scientific Advisory Panel challenged the shift in EPA’s approach. Meanwhile, other countries around the world, including Australia and the European Union, have looked at the same scientific information and approved chlorpyrifos for use.

We commend your Administration for striking the correct and lawful balance in maintaining the ingredient, while conducting ongoing scientific analyses as required by law until October 1, 2022. Thank you for your prudent action and support of American farmers and users of chlorpyrifos represented in nearly all regions of the country.

Sincerely,

AmericanHort

Agricultural Retailers Association

American Sugarbeet Growers Association

Beet Sugar Development Foundation

National Agricultural Aviation Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council

National Sorghum Producers

Washington Friends of Farms & Forests