



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 301
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CHLORPYRIFOS

March 3, 2020

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 301** to address chlorpyrifos regulation in the state of Connecticut.

Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate – a group of chemicals originally developed as a deteriorative nerve gas during World War II. Chlorpyrifos is used regularly as a pesticide on crops and food products. In Connecticut, chlorpyrifos is routinely sprayed on golf courses with little concern to patrons and nearby residents. Despite the increased awareness surrounding the detrimental effects of such chemicals on both the environment and humans, there is **still no comprehensive legislation to ban the use of these chemicals entirely.**

The use of chlorpyrifos is not only concerning to the status of Connecticut's agriculture and ecosphere, but it also poses serious risks to the health of our most vulnerable residents. It is increasingly recognized that prenatal and early childhood exposure to chlorpyrifos contributes significantly to growing rates of neurodevelopmental disorders in children and adolescents. In fact, **children aged 1-2 are exposed to chlorpyrifos levels that are 140 times what the EPA deems safe.**

Columbia University conducted research within urban communities that determined that prenatal exposure negatively impacted brain development in children. The exposure to such toxic chemicals negatively affected brain functions related to attention, memory, language, and decision making in young children.

Chlorpyrifos is one of the most toxic chemicals sprayed on food in the United States. The EPA has banned the use of chlorpyrifos in residential settings because it recognized the chemicals effects on infants and children. And in 2015, the EPA went further to determine that **there is no safe way to use the chemical.** But due to administration change this proposal was never finalized.

We urge the committee to **SUPPORT SB 301** in order to restrict the use of chlorpyrifos in Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown
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