April 29, 2019

The Honorable Todd Kaminsky
Senator
Legislative Office Building, Room 307
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Steve Englebright
Assemblyman
Legislative Office Building, Room 621
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Continued Support for S5343 (Kaminsky) / A2477B (Englebright)

Dear Senator Kaminsky and Assemblyman Englebright,

The undersigned organizations have issued memoranda of support for S2156 (Kaminsky) / A2477 (Englebright), which would prohibit the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos in New York. We continue to support the amended bills, S5343 and A2477B, which would prohibit aerial spraying of chlorpyrifos as of January 1, 2020; prohibit all uses of chlorpyrifos, except uses on apple tree trunks, as of January 1, 2021; and prohibit all uses of chlorpyrifos in the state, including uses on apple tree trunks, as of December 1, 2021.

Chlorpyrifos is a dangerous pesticide that can damage the developing brains of infants and children. Dozens of studies conducted over two decades support the conclusion that exposure to chlorpyrifos during pregnancy is associated with reduced birthweight, mental and psychomotor delays, attention and behavior problems, and cognitive impairments. Under the Obama administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that all uses of chlorpyrifos result in unsafe levels of exposure. It is imperative that all uses of chlorpyrifos end.

Under these bills, as amended, New York would become the first state in the country to end all uses of chlorpyrifos. We urge support for S5343 and A2477B.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics, District II, NYS
Beyond Pesticides
Catskill Provisions
Children’s Defense Fund - New York
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Clean and Healthy New York
Earthjustice
Environmental Advocates of New York
Farmworker Justice
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Grassroots Environmental Education
Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc.
JustGreen Partnership
Megan K. Horton, PhD, MPH, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*
Migrant Clinicians Network
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York Bee Sanctuary
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
NYC Grassroots Alliance
Riverkeeper
Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
The Carl Safina Center, Inc.
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
WNY Peace Center
Worker Justice Center of NY

* Institution listed for identification purposes only.

cc: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
    New York State Senate
    New York State Assembly