FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT,

BILL 7346. AA PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN ORGANOPHOSPHATES. SUPPORT
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut’s waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state’s many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

To: Christine Cohen and Rep. Mike Demicco, Chairmen, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance urges you to ban the use of the highly toxic organophosphate chemical pesticide chlorpyrifos. Similar bans have been introduced this year in bills in the US House and Senate; this follows a federal appeals court order to the EPA, in August 2018, to prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos. (No action taken yet.)

You have before you detailed, expert testimony from Clean Water Action. Chlorpyrifos is extremely dangerous. It poses serious risks to the health of children. It is highly toxic to birds and insects. Even though it does not travel readily to water, it is present there, and is toxic to fish. Moreover, it is killing off the insects that fish and other aquatic creatures feed on.

The 500 members of Rivers Alliance include a number of beekeepers and others who are especially concerned with the widespread loss of pollinators. **We are in the midst of a drastic decline in insect species, threatening a widespread collapse of ecological systems.** You may, yourselves have noticed this decline of insects here in Connecticut.

The Journal on Biological Conservation has published one of the many science studies on insect loss. The finding were described in The Guardian newspaper (February 10, 2019): **More than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered, the analysis found. The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. The total mass of insects is falling by a precipitous 2.5% a year, according to the best data available, suggesting they could vanish within a century.**

Please ban this pesticide. Thank you for your concern and work.

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