



August 21, 2023

Dear Orleans Select Board,

The Orleans Pond Coalition endorses the decision to act against harmful lawn and garden pesticides for the protection of the residents, environment, water ways, wildlife and the Town's economy, per your letter of March 29, 2023.

We support the town's Home Rule Petition to Reduce the Use of Pesticides in the Town of Orleans as a first step in this important initiative. We also urge the Town to do more to encourage a reduction in pesticide use.

For example, we encourage the Town to re-commit to the steps outlined in the 2012 Town Policy Statement on Fertilizers, Pesticides and Herbicides Program. In particular, as stated, *"to form a committee that will help educate the citizens of Orleans why we need to significantly reduce the use of nitrogen, phosphorous, pesticides and herbicides in the care and maintenance of properties."*

We believe if the Town joined forces with non-profits to help educate residents on the negative impact of toxic chemicals in pesticides, we could all see an immediate and positive impact on the health and well-being of our local environment, economy, and neighbors.

The Orleans Pond Coalition stands ready to help in this important effort.

Sincerely,

The Orleans Pond Coalition