

To: Orleans Selectboard

From: Orleans Agricultural Advisory Council
Peter Jensen, Chair

Date: October 8, 2023

Dear Selectboard,

The Orleans Agricultural Advisory Council voted in unanimous support of the Pesticide Reduction Home Rule Petition. It is our hope going forward that this will provide opportunity for further public education on how a healthy soil, rich in organic matter, results in greater water retention and overall plant vigor with little to no requirement of pesticides. We also hope to facilitate the flow of science-based information in regards to the many alternative steps homeowners and gardeners can take to mitigate unwanted species in and around the home environment. All of this helps promote biodiversity rather than destroy it. Any steps we can take to help protect our open waters, our native pollinators and beneficial insects, our native landscapes and our sole source aquifer will be beneficial to all citizens of Orleans, and most especially those growing food.

We look forward to a resounding yes vote at Fall Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

Orleans Agricultural Advisory Council
Peter Jensen, Chair

Gretel Norgeot
Heather Bailey
Rand Burkert
Matthew Milan