

NPMA LEGISLATIVE ALERT

The pest management industry is responsible for protecting Americans from pests and the diseases they carry. NPMA members are the frontline in safeguarding the health and property of American citizens and businesses, and we take that responsibility seriously.

NPMA Supports H.R. 345: The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (SMASH Act)

The SMASH Act passed the House in the 115th Congress and was included in a wider package on pandemic preparedness in the Senate. Unfortunately, despite broad bipartisan support, it did not pass in 2018, and was re-introduced in the 116th Congress as H.R. 345 (with a Senate companion bill to follow.) The bill would extend CDC grants for mosquito control programs to include emerging mosquito-borne diseases and to improve existing control programs. The bill would also require a GAO report on the surveillance and control of mosquito-borne infectious diseases in the United States and territories.

NPMA Supports H.R. 890: The Reducing EPA Duplication to Advance Pesticide Enforcement Act (REDTAPE Act)

Pesticide use and application is already regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The 2009 6th Circuit court decision disregarded Congressional intent and added an additional layer of regulation by requiring entities to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act. The REDTAP Act would in no way dilute federal oversight of pesticide usage, as pesticides are already federally regulated under FIFRA. The Act would simply remove a duplicative and unnecessary requirement for applicators to request an NPDES permit.

Bedbugs: NPMA is looking for Congressional partners to help address the crisis of bedbugs, particularly when addressing infestations in affordable housing communities. Trained pest management professionals can inspect, diagnose and craft an integrated approach to manage bedbugs, even in large multi-family dwellings, rather than depending on do it yourself efforts that often only perpetuate the problem and contribute to insecticide resistance. NPMA hopes that members of Congress will be willing to engage with affected industries and find a path forward to help manage bedbug infestations, particularly for those who are unable to afford treatment on their own.

Protection from pests requires clear and certain regulation of the products we use and the services we provide. NPMA is eager to work with Congress to clarify and strengthen the laws and regulations we abide by.