2021 MID-YEAR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS
Federal Issues

NALP represents the industry on critical issues before Congress, the White House, and Federal Agencies.

**H-2B Guest Worker Visa Program**

H-2B reforms and cap relief continue to be a primary focus at the federal level. Despite significant headwinds, NALP helped:

- Secured language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to provide the Department of Homeland Security with the discretionary authority to release additional H-2B visas when a bona fide need has been demonstrated.
- Pressured the Biden Administration to release 22,000 additional H-2B visas for the FY 21.
- Met with the White House and the Ambassador of Guatemala to improve access to Northern Triangle eligible nations.
- Led efforts to introduce the Returning Worker Exception Act of 2021, the first stand-alone H-2B reform legislation fully endorsed by the H-2B Workforce Coalition in several Congresses.

**COVID-19**

NALP continued to defend, fight for, and inform the industry on issues related to COVID-19. In addition to ensuring the hugely important “essential industry designation” in 2020, NALP continued to achieve some significant wins this year including:

- Paycheck Protection Program
  - Lobbyed Congress to extend and expand PPP in
    - Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (December 2020)
    - PPP Extension Act of 2021 (March 2021)
  - Lobbying Congress to ensure PPP eligible expenses will be tax-deductible
  - Lobbying Congress to include 501(c)6 organization’s eligibility for PPP loans

- Other COVID Relief
  - Lobbying Congress to provide a tax credit for employers providing paid sick leave for COVID-19 related exposure through September 2021
  - Provided Member updates and information on rapidly developing federal and state safety requirements and standards
  - Distributed vaccine information and Employer guidance and Employee Information
PESTICIDE REGISTRATION & REVIEW
NALP continues to work on behalf of the industry to promote the availability of federally and state-approved products responsibly used by professionals to protect and enhance healthy green spaces.
• Communicating with the EPA and the USDA. Our team regularly meets with the EPA and USDA about landscape pesticide applicator issues, and we have already met with Political Appointees tapped to lead on issues critical to the industry. We are also working with EPA on upcoming Waters of the U.S. definition revisions.
• Submitting Comments to EPA - Submitted comments defending the industry’s use of pesticides for nine separate registration decisions while also continuing to communicate and provide data for the much-anticipated Neonicotinoid registration review.

CLIMATE CHANGE POSITIONING
NALP is committed to leading the charge on educating policymakers and consumers about the important role healthy green spaces play in combatting climate change. Industry professionals are stewards of the environment, and we work to promote the great work you do daily. When policymakers and consumers understand the value of green spaces, this leads to more wins in the policy arena for the industry.
• Developed video, infographic, content, and social media campaigns to highlight the ways grass, trees, and plants help fight climate change
• Launched multiple grassroots campaigns to the 117 Congress to address how the Landscape industry can help combat climate change.
• Supported legislative initiatives that promote the industry

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

1,267 state bills tracked that could impact the industry
100,000 VIEWS Climate change video
330,000 IMPRESSIONS Climate change video

115 MEMBERS NATIONWIDE Grew the ACT Team
26,364 messages sent to Federal and State officials
22,000 Additional H-2B Visas secured
125 Virtual Legislative Day meetings
STATE ISSUES

Our team regularly tracks bills in all 50 states that could impact the industry. State legislative activity ramped up significantly this year. We continue to face tremendous pressures to enact pesticide bans and restrictions. We tracked 1,267 bills that could affect landscape and lawn care companies in 2021 and were actively engaged in lobbying, engaging the ACT Network, and providing testimony on 324 of those bills.

Working with allied associations to defeat a proposal in California to ban the use of all gas-powered landscape equipment by 2024.

Top issues at the State level:
• Pesticide preemption
• Pesticide bans/restrictions
• Power equipment modifications
• Leaf blower and gas-powered equipment restrictions

The most active states with adverse legislation in the works include:
• Maine
• New York
• Massachusetts
• New Jersey
• California

We defeated pesticide bans or restrictions in the following states:
• CT    • MO    • RI
• IL    • NH    • TX
• MA    • NJ (pending) • VA
• MD    • NM    • WI (Pending)
• ME    • NV
• MN    • NY

The NALP Government Relations team has segmented the U.S. into thirds to increase our effectiveness at the state level. Bob Mann leads the East Coast lobbying; Karla Segundo leads the Midwest, and Andrew Bray leads the lobbying efforts on the West Coast.

LOCAL ISSUES

Many issues begin at the local level. This year, we’ve seen many leaf blower bans and a continued push to regulate pesticide and fertilizer use at the local level.

Prince George’s County, Maryland
NALP defeated an attempt to ban the use of synthetic pesticides on public and private property. This was no easy feat considering neighboring Montgomery County, which passed a similar ordinance several years ago, was heavily engaged. The victory was a culmination of member engagement and participation to tip the scales in our favor.
GET INVOLVED

Subscribe to the Advocate E-Newsletter
Get the inside scoop on legislation, regulation, and critical issues that are impacting the industry - delivered to your inbox on Fridays. Exclusively for NALP members.

Use the QR code or go to mailchi.mp/landscapeprofessionals/advocate-newsletter to sign up.

Legislative Action Center
Easily send emails to your representatives through our Legislative Action Center. Look for alerts from NALP, then take action.

NALP Political Action Committee (PAC)
The PAC is a crucial tool to build relationships on Capitol Hill. For more information, please contact Andrew Bray, andrew@landscapeprofessionals.org.

Join the Advocacy Contact Team (ACT)
Become one of our state advocates, receive regular updates about key issues in your state, and be our industry’s boots on the ground advocate. For more information, please contact Bob Mann, bob@landscapeprofessionals.org.

Legislative Days on the Hill
Join us in early 2022 for our next Legislative Days on the Hill, in Washington D.C., as we work together to inform Congressional teams about our issues. Also, join us throughout the year for special ad-hoc fly-ins for H-2B.
Thank you to our Government Affairs Council members who provide strategic leadership and guidance as well as lending their technical expertise to advance the industry.

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Fallmouth, MA

Nick Brummell — Chair  
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