

## CLIMATE CHANGE & THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The lawn and landscape industry is committed to responsibly using our expertise and experience to maintain healthy green spaces. As Congress and the Biden Administration push forward on policies to combat climate change and bolster our nation's infrastructure it is important to acknowledge the pivotal role that urban and suburban landscapes play in our communities across America and the tremendous benefits they offer to the environment, businesses and families.

- » Healthy lawns and landscapes benefit the entire environment by cooling the earth, removing carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air and protecting water sources from unhealthy runoff
- **Professionally managed lawns** – in accordance with best management practices and University extension recommendation can sequester nearly two times the amount of carbon as unmanaged lawns.
- » Properly maintained and managed landscapes reduce the dangerous and deadly diseases transmitted from biting and stinging insects such as: mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas
- » Recent studies indicate that healthy managed landscapes make people less stressful and improve attention and memory functions.
- » Well maintained natural grass fields reduce injury rates from sports activities.
- » Neighborhoods with tree-lined streets and larger yard trees have reduced crime rates.

NALP supports provisions in Build Back Better or other legislation that related to climate change that bolsters resilience and natural solutions to climate change through investments in coastal restoration, forest management, and soil conservation. Additionally, NALP supports funding for USDA to continue to research the positive impacts of forests, suburban and urban greens spaces have on climate change. Lastly, NALP supports funding to encourage businesses to continue to invest in new and cleaner technologies.

### Integrated Pesticide Management – The Important Role of Pesticides in Maintaining Healthy Green Spaces

Lawn and landscape professionals that maintain these green spaces are also committed to integrated pest management (IPM), a system of managing pests that involves using the best combination of cultural, biological, and chemical measures for particular circumstances to ensure the most cost effective, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable method of managing diseases, insects, weeds, and other pests.

Pesticide products are a crucial component of IPM. These products are essential in the preservation of outdoor green spaces that are enjoyed by all citizens and assist in our fight against climate change.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS

- **Support** Proposals in Climate Change or Infrastructure Legislation that Promote **Urban and Suburban Landscapes**
- **Oppose** S. 3283 *Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act (PACTPA)*
- **Support** Legislation to Strengthen FIFRA and Fund EPA OPP Operations



## CLIMATE CHANGE & THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY, *Continued*

Pesticides are regulated under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and undergo rigorous testing before the U.S. EPA approves them. EPA approval of a pesticide is based on voluminous scientific studies reviewed by myriad experts across a host of scientific disciplines. This regulatory review is important in ensuring that products are safe for people, including children and immune-compromised individuals, pets, wildlife and the environment. In addition, under law, EPA must review all pesticide products at a minimum every 15 years or if substantiated concerns about a product's safety are raised. Following EPA approval, pesticides must be registered in each individual state where they will be used.

FIFRA requires that accurate labels be placed on all pesticide containers that include very detailed directions for using the pesticide. The label is a legally binding document, and sets forth all the directions for use and the specific precautions necessary to protect users, consumers and the environment. Individuals using pesticides are subject to prosecution if they do not precisely follow the label directions. Further, in order to use pesticides, licensed lawn care professionals and other certified pest control applicators must take their state's annual training classes and pass an exam.

### **Oppose S. 3283 *Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2021 (PACTPA)***

This legislation as introduced would gut decades of federal regulation and scientific progress, undermining the work of EPA's career scientists in the evaluation of pesticide safety and oversight of pesticide registration and use. The bills would jeopardize the continued availability and innovation of pesticide products by imposing an unscientific and unbalanced process that could unnecessarily remove pest control options from those who need them to safely grow crops, protect homes, landscapes and green spaces, and control pathogens and disease vectors.

Pesticide manufacturers, pesticide users, and the public all have an interest in ensuring that the pesticide regulatory process imposes stringent regulatory controls on pesticide use based on the principles of sound science, transparency, and broad stakeholder engagement. This bill would destroy decades of established practices and principles that our industry upon relies and would replace institutional knowledge and science based decisions at the whims of a loud minority that does not appreciate nor do they understand why and how we use pesticides to protect and manage healthy green spaces. We remain committed to protecting human health and the environment while maintaining our customers' businesses, yards, sports fields, common areas and parks throughout our nation's communities.

### **Access to Green Spaces is a Matter of Environmental Justice**

All people, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances deserve to enjoy outdoor spaces. It is essential that safe and effective pesticides continue to be available to professionals that maintain public facilities including schools, parks, athletic fields, day care centers, hospitals, and residential communities. Public green spaces should not be infested with ticks that can cause disease, weeds such as poison ivy and ragweed that can exacerbate allergies or uncontrolled growth that can make parks and athletic fields unusable.

## CONTACT US

For more information, contact the National Association of Landscape Professionals.



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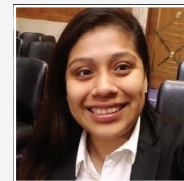
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**Voices for Healthy  
Green Spaces**