

## PESTICIDE REGULATION

### BACKGROUND

NALP members help homeowners and businesses maintain their lawns and landscapes and take pride in their communities. The stewardship of these green spaces sometimes requires the judicious use of EPA approved pesticides to remove pests such as ticks that cause disease, weeds that cause allergies and diseases or insects that can kill trees.

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 application is based on voluminous scientific studies reviewed by many EPA experts across a number of scientific disciplines. This regulatory review is important in ensuring that products are safe for people, 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.

Congressional oversight of EPA policies and decisions is appropriate, however, we urge Congress to resist calls to restrict individual pesticide products or classes of pesticides. Decisions about the use of specific pesticides are best left to the scientists who work in the various science divisions of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. These career scientists are the most knowledgeable about the benefits and risks of individual pesticide products and about specific measures that can be taken to mitigate the risks associated with individual products.

We also urge Congress to ensure that EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs continues to have the resources needed to review applications for new pesticide products, which will provide lawn care and landscape professionals with innovative new tools to manage pests. We request that for Fiscal 2020, Congress maintain the Fiscal 2019 funding level of \$128.3 million for the Office of Pesticide Programs. The FY 2020 House-passed Interior and Environment appropriations bill contains an 11% cut from Fiscal 2019 levels.

### REQUESTED ACTION

- Congressional oversight of EPA policies and decisions is appropriate, however, we urge you to oppose any legislative efforts to restrict the use of specific pesticide products or classes of pesticides. Decisions about the use of specific pesticides are best left to the scientists who work in the various science divisions of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs.
- Please maintain the Fiscal 2019 funding level of \$128.3 million for the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs so that lawn care and landscape professionals can continue to access new and innovative pest management tools.