



-Government Relations- 2017 Score Card December 2017

New Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Tools and Resources

NALP understands that our advocacy effectiveness is directly connected to engaging you and other landscape professionals in the advocacy process. We strive to position our members for advocacy success by providing tools and resources that help to demystify the process and identify the points that are most likely to resonate with decision makers at all levels of government. In 2017, we created many new resources to help educate our nation's legislators and to assist NALP members and other stakeholders in advancing our advocacy goals and objectives including the following:

- Myths and Facts H-2B infographic
- Social media infographics for H-2B advocacy as well as general advocacy use
- “How-to-Guide” on social media best practices for advocacy
- Digest of industry friendly pollinator health research resources
- Video to promo importance of Legislative Days on the Hill and and advocacy participation
- Launched campaign effort to encourage member advocacy during August recess
- Launched new social media focused advocacy center
- Faces of the Industry Video to help people understand the community-minded spirit landscape professionals have
- Pollinator health BMP's - developed in conjunction with turf grass research university programs
- “Welcome to Congress” info packet for freshman members of Congress
- “Government Advocacy Partnership” grant program to support NALP member state association state/local advocacy activities

RELENTLESS ADVOCACY – 2017 Report

NOTE: NALP's legislative and regulatory engagement is typically member driven and done in collaboration with other industry stakeholders and the wins/ losses reported below reflect that spirit. NALP is proud to be an active participant on teams that have enabled progress, successes and achievements for landscape professionals and has noted coalition effort wins below. We also feel that it is important that members understand the full breadth of legislative activity that we faced during the past year. In many ways, our profession is under siege and so we believe it is important to report not just on wins, but also the losses, and issues that are not yet resolved, one way or another. Below is an accounting of major federal, state, and local legislative activity on issues directly related to landscape professionals and the services they provide.

Key: Wins – Losses – In Play

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

H2B

- **561** NALP members sent at least one message to Congress regarding H-2B relief. In 2017, a total of **2,013** messages were sent to Congress on H-2B by our members.
- **65** members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi urging 2018 cap-relief
- **DHS approved limited H-2B cap-relief by authorizing an additional 16,000 H-2B visas – too little too late**
- **87** members of Congress signed letter to DHS Secretary Kelly urging swift action on H-2B
- **Congressman Chabot reintroduced SEASONS Act (H-2B fix) and Senator Tillis introduced an H-2B reform measure in the upper Chamber**
- **Helped secure H-2B Cap relief, signed into law as part of fiscal 2017 federal spending act**

Pesticide Issues

- *Lobbied in favor of Farm Bill provisions including aligning the Endangered Species Act with FIFRA*
- *Lobbied in favor of House approved PREA – Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act*
- *Lobbied in favor of House passed NPDES regulatory relief message*

Raising NALP Profile

- **A November H-2B fly-in drew more than 220 participants and resulted in nearly 100 visits to congressional offices**
- **Conducted individual H2B strategy calls with key state associations and their members**
- **NALP members participated in nearly 100 congressional visits at Legislative Days on the Hill**
- **Led meetings with senior staff at the EPA's office of Pesticide Programs, the White House National Economics' Council, and the Department of Homeland Security to discuss industry challenges and explore potential collaboration opportunities**
- **Conducted Facebook Live event on preparing your lawn for winter in conjunction with LANDSCAPES which reached nearly 30,000 users and was viewed over 18,000 times.**

WOTUS

- Submitted NALP letter of support to USEPA endorsing revised rulemaking governing Waters of the United States

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

California

- Palm Springs City ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers on public and private property
- Proposed state ban on neonic use

Connecticut

- Helped defeat Kennedy bill banning all pesticide applications on state roadways
- Helped defeat establishment of Pesticide Advisory Council due to lack of inclusion of our industry

Florida

- Helped to defeat county fertilizer bans/restrictions in Citrus, Lake and Orange Counties
- Failed to defeat hostile Seminole County fertilizer ordinance
- Failed to defeat leaf blower ban in Palm Beach Florida
- Failed to defeat fertilizer blackout period Lake County

Illinois

- Helped defeat sales tax on services bill
- Proposed state ban on neonic use

Indiana

- Helped defeat last minute effort by State Chemist to gain emergency powers to ban/restrict chemical use

Maine

- Failed to pass state pesticide preemption; proposal died in committee
- South Portland (Maine) passed ordinance banning pesticide apps on public and private property
- Portland (Maine) ordinance banning pesticide apps on public and private property (passed Jan. 3, 2018)
- Working with TruGreen, GCSAA to secure professional applicator exemption from hostile local ordinances
- Proposed state ban on neonic use still in place
- Engage long-term with Board of Pesticide Control

Maryland

- Circuit Court overturned commercial pesticide ban ordinance in and the County has now appealed. Awaiting appeal decision before any further steps
- Outreach to industry stakeholders in prep for state bill repealing preemption

Massachusetts

- *State bill to weaken or eliminate existing pesticide preemption*
- *Assorted bills to ban neonic pesticide use*

Minnesota

- *Helped defeat bill to eliminate preemption for larger cities*

Missouri

- *State fertilizer preemption bill passed the House, but not the Senate*

New Hampshire

- *Helped defeat pesticide ban on parks, athletic fields*
- *Helped table bill to ban pesticides in “areas where children play”*

New Jersey

- *Maplewood (New Jersey) passed an ordinance banning commercial gas-powered leaf blowers from May 15 to October 1*
- *Proposed state ban on neonic use*

North Carolina

- *Defeated proposed state ban on neonic use*

Oregon

- *Proposed state ban on neonic use*
- *Petition efforts in several communities to get pesticide ordinance bans on the ballot*

Utah

- *Helped pass law that preempts local pesticide and fertilizer ordinances*

Other

- *Created new Director, State Government Relations position, and hired long-time turf grass industry champion Bob Mann for the position*
- *Continue work within GreenScape Alliance to reform ASHRAE sustainability design standards and defend turfgrass*