



**July 2017**

**Subject: Pesticide Registration Funding**

**Background:**

NALP members help homeowners and businesses maintain their lawns and landscapes and take pride in their communities. Pesticides are an important tool in maintaining green spaces and protecting people and property from pests, such as ticks and mosquitoes that can carry diseases. They are also used to control weeds that can exacerbate allergies. Funding for EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs through appropriations and pesticide registration fees ensures lawn care companies have access to new and innovative pest control solutions.

Industry, agriculture, environmental groups and EPA negotiated a proposal to reauthorize the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), which is set to expire in October 2017. We urge the Senate to quickly pass the Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act (HR 1029), which was passed by the House on March 20, 2017. The bill would allow new and innovative pest control solutions to be quickly brought to the market. The bill also provides funding for important pesticide applicator training activities.

PRIA was first enacted with strong bipartisan support in 2004 and reauthorized in 2007 (PRIA-2) and 2012 (PRIA-3) – each time with the support of the regulated community, environmental organizations, state departments of agriculture and EPA. Under PRIA, the pesticide industry pays over \$40 million in pesticide registration and maintenance fees, which supplement federal appropriations, provide resources for EPA's

registration efforts, create a more predictable and timely pesticide evaluation process, and fund worker protection training activities.

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

- **WE URGE THE SENATE TO QUICKLY PASS THE PESTICIDE REGISTRATION ENHANCEMENT ACT (HR 1029), WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON MARCH 20, 2017.**
- **FOR FISCAL 2018, PLEASE APPROPRIATE A MINIMUM OF \$128 MILLION FOR EPA'S OFFICE OF PESTICIDE PROGRAMS.**

In addition to reauthorizing the law, it is important that Congress provide stable appropriations for the Office of Pesticide Programs to supplement the fees paid by industry. Like past iterations of the law, PRIA-4 would require a minimum appropriation for the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) in order to allow EPA to collect the fees permitted by current law. However, sequestration and budget pressures over the past few years caused Congress to waive the \$128 million funding level required to allow the pesticide registration program to continue to operate. Secure program funding will provide EPA with the resources needed to ensure that lawn care professionals will have access to new pest control tools and worker safety training programs.