

# SMASH Act

The Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (MASH) Act of 2003 was designed to support local government mosquito control activities and was originally passed during the first West Nile Virus outbreak. This Act authorized federal funds for local governments to protect communities from mosquitoes and other disease vectors. Local program funds were to be matched by federal funding by a ratio of at least 1 to 2, and additional funding was to be made available for each state to monitor the local program funding.

[The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health \(SMASH\) Act](#) of 2017 introduced as S.849 in the Senate and H.R. 1310 in the House of Representatives reauthorizes the 2003 MASH Act, and represents a platform for building a sustainable capacity to safeguard our nation from vector-borne diseases. This amounts to \$130 million per year, FY 2018-FY 2023.

S.849, sponsored by Senator Angus King, recently was "hotlined," or cleared, for consideration by the full Senate, and may be considered under unanimous consent, or without a recorded vote, when the Senate reconvenes in early September. AMCA registered support for the SMASH Act in a [June 9 letter](#) to both House and Senate sponsors, and recently reaffirmed its support as the legislation moves through the congressional process. Note, the House version of the SMASH Act, while accruing 27 cosponsors, has not yet been brought for consideration by the relevant House Committees of jurisdiction.

AMCA members are encouraged to contact both their Senate and House members to urge timely adoption of the SMASH Act. Specific Ask: "Pass and fully fund all provisions of H.R.1310/S.849 Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act."

## Appropriations Funding

AMCA submitted their priority funding requests to Congress earlier this year and federal appropriations measures are progressing through the legislative process. The House of Representatives has scheduled a Rules Committee meeting for the week of September 4 on a package to consider eight outstanding appropriations bills, including Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture, where AMCA priority programs are housed. It is anticipated the "Mini-Bus" will be brought to the House Floor as early as the week of September 4, or the following week, with a very limited capacity for amendment.

The House Appropriations Committee earlier approved the HHS Appropriations bill on July 17. While funding for Vector-borne Diseases was designated at a level funding level similar to last year (\$26.4 million) it is important to note that overall funding for the bill was reduced, so those programs sustained reflected "investments in research, public health, biodefense, and important activities that help boost job growth" according to the Committee. In addition, the HHS Appropriations legislation did include important [language relating to Vector Control Guidelines and Research](#), demonstrating the Committee's interest in these issues.

## Redefining WOTUS

Mosquito control programs are required to have a Clean Water Act permit to apply pesticides to "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) will hold ten teleconferences to hear from stakeholders their recommendations to revise the definition of WOTUS. The agencies plan to propose a new definition that

would replace the approach in the 2015 Clean Water Rule. During the upcoming teleconferences, EPA will provide brief background information on the rulemaking and the progress to date, followed by time for feedback.

Information on how to register for each of these meetings is available on the EPA Web site at <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/outreach-meetings>. Registration for each webinar will close a week prior.

The calls are scheduled from 1PM to 3PM Eastern for:

- \* Tuesday, September 19, 2017-small entities (small businesses, small organizations and small governmental jurisdictions);
- \* Tuesday, September 26, 2017- environment and public advocacy;
- \* Tuesday, October 3, 2017- conservation, e.g., hunters and anglers;
- \* Tuesday, October 10, 2017- construction and transportation;
- \* Tuesday, October 17, 2017- agriculture;
- \* Tuesday, October 24, 2017- industry;
- \* Tuesday, October 31, 2017- mining;
- \* Tuesday, November 7, 2017- scientific organizations and academia;
- \* Tuesday, November 14, 2017- storm water, wastewater management and drinking water agencies;  
and
- \* Tuesday, November 21, 2017-open to general public.

The agencies are also planning an in-person meeting with small entities, on Monday, October 23, 2017, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in DC.