

Federal Funding for Mosquito Control: Advance Innovation and Discovery

Problem: The emergence and spread of West Nile virus, Chikungunya and Zika highlighted our nation's insufficient preparation for responding to these threats. Our understanding of these and future diseases require support for continued research and development of tools to combat them.

Background: The CDC awarded \$40 million in FY 2017 to establish Centers of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease at universities in the South, Southeast, Northeast and Midwest to address vector-borne diseases in these regions. The establishment of an additional Center of Excellence in the Western US is critical to generate the necessary research, knowledge, and capacity to enable timely local public health action for vector-borne disease control unique to this region.

The USDA IR-4 Public Health Pesticides Program (PHP) provides critical assistance to meet regulatory requirements for bringing new control tools to market, expansion of allowed use patterns, and protection of existing tools from regulatory or other challenges.

Discussion: The development of new technology and evaluation of current products is essential to control disease-carrying pests. Ensuring an economically feasible process for pesticide registration, allows product developers to continue providing low-risk, effective mosquito control options – and should be encouraged. It is unclear whether the recently released budget proposal reducing the EPA budget by 25 percent (\$6.1 billion) and staffing by 12,400 workers will affect the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP's) ability to register new public health tools in time to meet vector control needs.

Actions Needed:

- **Support the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Vector Borne Disease, Regional Centers of Excellence for Vector Control. \$10 million is requested in FY 2018, to support a Regional Center of Excellence for the Western region of the U.S.**
- **Support the continuation of the IR-4 Public Health Pesticides Program (PHP) of \$350,000 to provide critical assistance for supporting vector control, including regulatory and other support needed to maintain public health and welfare.**
- **Support the Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act (H.R. 1029) and increase EPA/OPP funding levels to ensure a timely and effective registration process.**