

## Next Steps for NPDES Legislation - The Farm Bill failed in the House, how does that affect us?

Earlier this month members of our Association went to D.C. to educate members of Congress on the importance of mosquito control, and we asked them to help us protect public health to the best of our ability. Congress can do this by diminishing excessive regulations and protecting vector control programs from frivolous lawsuits.

AMCA supports the language of H.R. 953 and S. 340; both bills clarify that pesticide applications regulated by [FIFRA](#) do not require a [Clean Water Act NPDES permit](#) because environmental protections for water are already upheld under FIFRA. Not only do NPDES permits fail to add any environmental protections for water, they create an administrative and monetary burden for mosquito control programs, divert resources that could be used supporting our mission, and expose pesticide applicators to frivolous lawsuits.

Few bills make it to the floor for a vote, so when appropriate, small bills such as H.R. 953 and S. 340 are attached to larger must-pass bills moving through Congress, such as the 2018 Farm Bill.

The House version of the Farm Bill contains NPDES "fix" language, but the bill failed to get the needed votes for passage on Friday, May 18th due to larger issues (immigration/food stamps). [The House Committee on Agriculture](#) and House leadership have stated they are committed to moving it again, however timing and those larger policy issues still need to be resolved. We may see movement again around the 3rd week of June. Our best chance of passage is to have our language included in both the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The Senate could mark up their version of the Farm Bill any day and take it to a vote in early June. A coalition of agricultural groups drafted [a letter](#) in support of regulatory reform provisions, with NPDES highlighted strongly. Anti-pesticide groups are sending messages to Congress stating that without NPDES permits pesticide applications made to water are not regulated or tracked. We need to set the record straight that pesticide applications are highly regulated under FIFRA and can be used to protect public health without sacrificing environmental standards.

Contact your Senators and Representative today encouraging them to include NPDES language in the 2018 Farm Bill, especially if you have a member on the [Senate Committee on Agriculture](#), Nutrition and Forestry. Thank you to those that made the trip to D.C. this month to educate Congress and regulatory agencies on best management practices in mosquito control. [Click here](#) to see the AMCA position paper that was distributed on the Hill May 15th.