

Legislative and Regulatory Committee Report
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Since the Washington Conference the Legislative and Regulatory (L&R) Committee has been following up with Members of Congress, federal regulatory agencies, and other public health organizations to make sure all the time and effort expended in D.C. results in achieving the AMCA's L&R goals. Last month I was reminded to take a step back and reflect upon the committee's mission, and over the next year I hope to more clearly communicate how the association's activities align with those goals.

AMCA Sustaining Memberships provide funding for legislative advocacy. The L&R Committee:

- Acts as a liaison between mosquito control professionals, industry and regulators.
- Organizes the annual AMCA Washington Conference which is vital to bringing our issues of importance to the attention of federal lawmakers and seeking their assistance.
- Actively supports legislative changes in Congress to make the jobs of AMCA members more efficient and effective.
- Provides an ear to hear all concerns of the mosquito control community and a voice for those concerns,
- Is a source of information for mosquito control professionals and elected officials so they understand issues facing us, and is a champion who will work to resolve these issues so mosquito control professionals can meet their responsibilities to protect public health.

STAY INFORMED:

You can find news about the latest laws, regulations, and actions affecting you and your organization by reading the AMCA e-monthly newsletter or clicking on the Legislation tab on the AMCA website.

GET INVOLVED:

The committee is seeking volunteers to serve as state liaisons between the L&R Committee and members of Congress. We still have several states lacking representation. This position involves circulating letters and notices to other mosquito control professionals in your state and asking for their support on current initiatives. For obvious reasons, elected officials are much more responsive when contacted by their constituents. Thank you to Scott Meador for agreeing to represent Oklahoma and Brian Prendergast for representing Maryland.

We are also seeking individuals to serve on subcommittees. The Chemical Control Subcommittee, led by Nina Dacko, only has a few members, but they will need considerable help in the next few years preparing federal comments on pesticide risk assessments.

CURRENT TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Endangered Species Act Endangered Species Act

(ESA) petitions and listings with the potential to affect mosquito control operations have increased over the last couple of years. Most recently, petitions have been filed for the Gulf Coast Solitary bee in March 2019 and the Bethany Beach Firefly in May 2019. In both cases, mosquito control activities have been proposed as threats to these species survival. With this rapid pace of petitions and other news on the ESA front, communicating with AMCA members who may be impacted has never been more important.

To facilitate more timely conversations about ESA related news and possible listings, the AMCA ESA Subcommittee, under the guidance of Mike Riles and Mark Clifton, is planning a couple of new

initiatives. Firstly, a webinar focused on the Endangered Species Act as well as new and proposed listings is being planned for later this year. The goal is to increase understanding about the ESA and its implications for mosquito control organizations. Secondly, more regular updates about ESA developments will begin appearing in the Mosquito Monthly newsletter, as well as the quarterly AMCA newsletters. The goal is to better keep pace with new ESA petitions and other developments between annual AMCA meetings. In addition, more regular communications about ESA-related issues will assist AMCA members in their understanding of the Endangered Species Act and help AMCA members formulate appropriate strategies for their operations.

Federal Funding

The [Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act \(S. 1379\)](#), which includes the [Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health \(SMASH\) Act](#), a bill to provide funding through the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to political subdivisions in response to a public health threat from mosquito and vector-transmitted diseases, was approved by Congress in June. This action is positive in that it now provides authorization for SMASH Act programs. However, as you may know, separate appropriations are still needed by Congress to fund the programs. AMCA members from key states recently took part in a letter writing campaign organized by Federal Funding Subcommittee Chairman, Gary Goodman, in support of fully funding the SMASH Act. Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of this legislation. We do not know how much, if any, funding may be available for fiscal year 2020, but funding local mosquito and vector control programs will be on top of AMCA's priority list for fiscal year 2021.

If you have an issue of concern in your local area, we want to hear from you. We are already planning the 2020 Washington Conference (May 12th and 13th) using feedback from this year's meeting and are interested in how we can better address your needs. For questions or comments contact [Angela Beehler](#).