

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Mosquito control professionals are responsible for protecting humans and wildlife from diseases transmitted by the world's most dangerous animal – the mosquito. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), improved mosquito control capability is needed to prevent the increasing emergence and spread of exotic diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.



AMCA Supports Increased Funding To Improve Local Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Capacity.

The *Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act* (H.R. 345) enjoys broad bipartisan support and would provide grants for local mosquito control programs in FY 2020 through FY 2024. An additional increase in the CDC's budget to \$200 million per year is needed to fund critical vector monitoring, control, and disease reporting measures. Congress should also fund the continuation of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) Public Health Pesticides Program, which provides vital assistance for research studies supporting regulatory requirements for vector control products needed to maintain public health and welfare.



AMCA Supports H.R. 890: *The Reducing EPA Duplication to Advance Pesticide Enforcement Act* (REDTAPE Act).

Public health pesticide applications are already fully regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The 2009 6th Circuit Court decision ignored original Congressional intent and added an additional, unnecessary layer of costly administrative overhead by requiring entities to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act. The REDTAPE Act would eliminate this redundant requirement that provides no additional environmental benefit while squandering critical resources.



AMCA Supports Reform of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to Realistically Assess Potential Impacts of Mosquito Control Operations on Listed Species.

The EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service should base Endangered Species Act (ESA) decisions on probabilistic risk assessments based on realistic pesticide usage data and updated critical habitat assumptions. Products used for controlling mosquitoes, such as malathion, are currently being restricted if there is a one-in-a million chance of directly impacting a single individual in a listed species. Effects on the entire population should be considered, not a single individual.

The current risk assessments failed to incorporate the best available science. Actual risk should be the universal standard, not problematic assumptions based on outdated data and exaggerated use patterns. The AMCA does not question the need for ESA, but clearly recognizes that the current interpretation and implementation of its contents needlessly jeopardizes the health of humans and wildlife by restricting mosquito control methods.