

# Ohio Green Industry Advocacy Day

Ohio's Green Industry: Let us be a Resource for You!

You were elected because your constituents have confidence in your decision-making skills. Every day, you are asked to consider policy changes and vote on myriad complex issues. These issues often require research on subject areas in which you may not be familiar. We want to help by being a resource for you on issues relating to the following subjects:

- Agricultural Labor (i.e. H2A, H2B, etc)
- Compost
- Invasive Species
- Irrigation
- Fertilizers
- Golf course maintenance
- Home Improvement Contracting
- Landscaping
- Lawn Care
- Nursery Stock
- Nutrients
- Pesticides (agricultural, turf, ornamental, even structural pesticides like products used for bed bugs and termites!)
- Plant pests such as Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, etc...
- Snow removal
- Soils
- Sports fields
- Turfgrass
- Underground utilities
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity (drought, water usage, etc..)
- Wine
- Workers Compensation Issues

To get in touch with a green industry constituent who can be a resource for you, contact any of our partnering organizations or Belinda Jones at Capitol Consulting Group, 614-224-3855; [bjones@capitol-consulting.net](mailto:bjones@capitol-consulting.net)



# Ohio Green Industry Advocacy Day Issue Briefs

## Phosphorus

### Request

The Green Industry respectfully requests the opportunity to be a resource for any legislative and regulatory discussions relative to the use of phosphorus on golf courses, landscapes, lawns, nursery stock, etc...

### Background

Recently, phosphorus has been under scrutiny for its possible contributions to the growth of harmful algae blooms in the Grand Lake St Mary's, in Lake Erie and other bodies of water. Although phosphorus is an essential element in agriculture, certain segments of the green industry have curbed or eliminated its use in certain instances. For example, many, if not all, lawn care service companies have moved to phosphorus free fertilizers for lawn maintenance programs. However, there are times when phosphorus is still needed (i.e. flowering plants, vegetables, container grown nursery stock and when establishing new lawns or repairing lawns/turf).

Representatives from the green industry are intimately engaged in the discussions on phosphorus. Having participated in the Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force, the Directors Ag Nutrient Water Quality Work Group, and other task forces and committees, representatives from the green industry support the 4Rs Nutrient Stewardship program, as well as general recommendations established by the Ohio State University Extension Service for soil types in Ohio. Finally, we support uniform, statewide application of Ohio's fertilizer law.

### Economic Impact

While it is difficult to find a cumulative study that assesses the economic impact of the green industry in its totality, below is a summary of the most recent surveys:

- The Green Industry generates \$4.9 Billion in Ohio Sales and \$3.15 Billion in Ohio Payroll
- Ohio's turfgrass industry accounts for \$4.6 billion total economic impact including \$937 million in payroll; 41,808 employees; and, over 4 million acres of maintained turfgrass
- Golf courses generate \$4.8 billion in total economic impact producing 68,120 jobs and \$1.5 bill in wage income

For Additional Information Contact: Belinda Jones - office: 224-3855;  
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# Ohio Green Industry Advocacy Day Issue Briefs

## HB 5: Municipal Tax Reform

### Request

The Green Industry respectfully requests favorable consideration of HB 5

### Background

Landscapers, lawn maintenance and other green industry professionals including pest control companies provide services in many municipalities throughout the season thus having to comply with myriad burdensome and complicated municipal tax regulations. Ohio's Green Industry needs municipal tax reform for the following reasons:

- Ohio has the most complicated local income tax system in the US
- Ohio is the only state where each city/village makes its own rules and regulations - businesses must keep track of and comply with as many as 600 different sets of tax ordinances
- It's particularly burdensome for businesses whose employees work/travel in multiple cities
- The high cost of compliance hinders economic growth

### Benefits of Municipal Tax Reform

- HB 5 will make Ohio's municipal income tax system simpler, fairer and more predictable
- HB 5 establishes one set of municipal tax rules and regulations that apply to nearly all Ohio cities the impose business and individual income taxes
- HB 5 will eliminate administrative hassles, conflicts and pitfalls
- Businesses will not pay less in tax, however they will reduce municipal tax compliance costs
- HB 5 will make Ohio more competitive for new investment and jobs

### Proponents

In addition to green industry support, HB 5 is supported by the Municipal Tax Reform Coalition (for a list of the coalition members, see <http://www.ohioscpa.com/>)

### Status

HB 5 is currently pending in the House Ways and Means Committee

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Quoting from Municipal Tax Reform Coalition "HB 5 - Key Points"

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