



On behalf of our industries, we urge Congress to codify the exclusive role of state lead scientific agencies as pesticide co-regulators with the EPA by supporting H.R. 7266.

We strongly support science-based regulations, and H.R. 7266 ensures that oversight of pesticides is based on the scientific expertise of career regulators at the state and federal level, versus politicians at the local level where resource and scientific expertise may be limited.

In addition to our industries, current state government pesticide control offices and officials support H.R. 7266, including the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

H.R. 7266 would prohibit localities from regulating pesticides, allowing only the state-designated lead pesticide regulatory agency to work in concert with career scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency when regulating the sale, distribution, use or labelling of pesticides. The staff-level scientific expertise and resources supporting at state agencies are what make them best suited for making important— non-political and science-based—decisions on pesticides in state and local communities. They are experts in their field and know how to coordinate administration of federal pesticide law— the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide (FIFRA).

This targeted fix will ensure that those with expertise at state lead agencies and the EPA are the ones to determine pesticide usage. Unfortunately, localities do not have the scientific expertise or resources to administer complicated pesticide laws, and this can lead to a statewide patchwork of regulation

State agencies, often housed in State Departments of Agriculture, have been the primary leads since the 1970's in working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to administer FIFRA laws and support the development of scientifically based pesticide labels that can be clearly read and safely administered by those applying pesticides. Additionally, state level pesticide control officials have been historically responsible for enforcing regulations protecting workers—including farm workers—and applicators from excess exposure to pesticides. These state level pesticide control officials are career employees with extensive scientific training and are therefore best situated to prevent pesticides from having adverse effects to the environment. Moreover, state officials have existing budgets and resources to oversee adequate enforcement and routine inspections of these aforementioned activities, often a cumbersome and resource-intensive task. Localities do not have the ability and resources to absorb from the states the

heavy burden of adequate pesticide policy administration, and in a manner that is based in science and protects public health.

H.R. 7266 does not restrict a state legislature or state lead agency from regulating pesticides based on sound science. It only ensures that all regulation must occur at the state level, rather than the local level. It also does not interfere with the rights of localities to determine what pesticides are used on their public property.

- ▶ **NPMA:** Pests can spread diseases like Zika virus, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, malaria, plague, and hantavirus; certainty in regulation across a state is needed for the pest management industry to perform its essential work to protect American's food, health, and property.
- ▶ **NALP:** The landscape industry relies on preemption to provide our industry with the federally and state approved tools necessary to work daily performing essential services to homes and businesses to maintain their landscapes, sustain the environment and enhance and maintain healthy and safe green spaces.
- ▶ **ARA:** Agricultural retailers accounts for more than half of all domestic crop pesticide ground and aerial applications. Applicators receive extensive education and training to apply pesticide products in accordance with FIFRA laws and regulations, and facilities across all 50 states depend on statewide regulatory clarity.
- ▶ **GCSAA:** Golf is an \$84 billion industry supporting 2 million U.S. jobs. Golf course superintendents follow baseline environmental compliance and, additionally, utilize agronomic and environmental BMPs to provide healthy greenspaces and wildlife habitats that benefit everyone.

Our organizations represent a wide swath of American industry with over 3.5 million jobs. We support H.R. 7266 and science-based policymaking.

On behalf of the organizations signed below, please consider supporting H.R. 7266 to protect Americans in the places where they live, work and play.

Agricultural Retailers Association

American Mosquito Control Association

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

National Association of Landscape Professionals

National Pest Management Association