Lawn association joins fight
$10,000 set aside for legal challenge in New York

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America has earmarked $10,000 toward the legal challenge of state law and state regulations in New York State. The appeal, currently in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, has implications for lawn care professionals nationwide. The New York lawsuit represents a significant step in the struggle for reasonable regulation of the use of pesticides, both for lawn care services and the entire green industry.

A 1987 law enacted by New York State plus further regulations enacted by the N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation require customer contracts, prenotification and posting when pesticides are applied. PLCAA, the New York Pesticide Coalition and other national trade associations feel the regulations and the law are unreasonable, overly broad and unjustified. These regulations, it is felt, are an extension of the pesticide label and therefore only within the purview of the federal government, not individual states. The lawsuit was unsuccessful in Federal District court, but the implications of such a decision on the rest of the country were considered so significant as to warrant appeal. James R. Brooks, PLCAA executive vice president, may be contacted at 1-800-458-3466.

Investigators have found no evidence of employment discrimination at Turf Valley Country Club, whose manager reportedly made racist remarks last year that were accidentally recorded on a telephone answering machine, according to The Washington Post. Jean Toomer, director of the Howard County Human Rights Coalition and other national trade organizations feel the regulations and the law are unreasonable, overly broad and unjustified.

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