At the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) breakfast meeting at this year's Golf Industry Show, federal legislative and regulatory issues took the spotlight. In his introduction, Steve Gullickson, RISE governing board chairman, said in 2013 RISE is setting its sights most on California, Florida and Northeastern states such as New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"Those are key states where legislative and regulatory challenges are moving at a relatively fast pace," he said.

Conversation at the breakfast was dominated by the Endangered Species Act. It's at the center of multiple federal lawsuits that could curtail the Green Industry's ability to apply pesticides on their current schedules, based on alleged risks to endangered species.

RISE is striving to ensure lawsuits fighting EPA on the issue aren't successful. And by intervening in the lawsuit Center for Biological Diversity v. EPA, otherwise known as "the megasuit," RISE is taking on a proactive role, one on the side of EPA.

Filed in the northern district of California, the suit is called the megasuit "because about 380 registered pesticides (across the U.S.) potentially could be impacted under this litigation," said Dudley Hoskins, manager of regulatory policy at RISE.

Depending on the suit’s outcome, provisions could delay new pesticides from coming to market or limit their use altogether.

Karen Reardon, RISE’s vice president, public affairs, said RISE intervened in the megasuit so if there is a settlement, the organization could be part of any future discussions and give pesticide applicators and manufacturers a voice at the table.

“Our goal would be to ensure there would be collaboration going forward,” she said.

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GOLFDOM WISDOM

Yes, she's cute, and yes, she always has beer. But after what happened last time, maybe you shouldn't date another beverage cart girl.

#golfdomwisdom

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READER JOKE

AS TOLD BY P.J. McGuire, CGCS, former superintendent now comedian

See McGuire (PJtheComic.com) this month in Colorado Springs, Vancouver or Louisville.

While setting up for a big golf tournament one year, we had just set out a group of Port-a-Pottys on the course. We were then approached by a very upset elderly female member. She was quite mad that the sinks in those restrooms had no water in them.

Sure, they were a relatively new item in the plastic outhouse game, but even then I knew the urinals weren't supposed to have water in them... and you certainly weren't supposed to be sticking your hands in there.