LCOs “just don’t think it makes sense to further regulate them for using the same products as the homeowner.”

“The answer is not at the federal level,” says Duncan. “We can’t count on a change in FIFRA. We have to go to the states.”

Duncan says RISE is counting on the agricultural lobby “to lead the effort” in convincing state legislators to be prudent.

### Local laws: what to say

- **If posting** is being considered, suggest the points listed below as part of a compromise bill, so some semblance of conformity with other possible localities can be maintained:
  - Posting for all applicators
  - Signs to be posted at the primary point(s) of entry at the time of the actual application, in a color that contrasts to background colors
  - Allow residents or owners to remove signs one day after application
  - Signs measuring 4-by-5 inches containing not less than 18-point type using the wording: “Landscape Care Application—Please Avoid Contact”
  - Signs bearing the company name and telephone contact number
- **If pre-notification** is being considered, suggest the points listed below as part of a compromise bill:
  - Advance notification of customers upon request
  - One day’s notice of application upon request of the owner or owner’s agent of abutting properties
  - Pre-notification of all residents within a specified distance of an application (meaning they could receive multiple notifications, with the effect of rendering them meaningless or of creating unwarranted alarm)
- **If written contracts**, having the effect of a contract, are being consid­ered, suggest they contain the following items, as part of a compromise bill:
  - Brand name of the product to be applied;
  - Cost of the basic services to be performed;
  - Chemical type (natural or synthetic fertilizer, pesticide or soil condition­ing agent) of the product;
  - General reason for the product’s use as stated on the label;
  - Concentration of the end-use products and rate of application;
  - Special instructions related to the customer’s use of the lawn after application;
  - On request, a copy of the label of the product(s) applied.

### The RISE Action Plan

- Defend the marketplace, and minimize burdensome legislation and regulation.
- Provide education and training tools.
  - Rights-of-way program, in cooperation with USDA and EPA
  - LCO training, in conjunction with PLCAA
- Resolve federal, state and local issues as they arise.
  - Federal/state pre-emption (Casey vs. Wisconsin)
  - National Lawncare Notification (Senate Bill 849)
  - Site remediation
  - Container recycling
  - Water quality
  - Minor use re-registration
  - Defeat Ohio’s Proposition 65 initiative
- Support grassroots organizations.
  - Fund state legislative issues
  - Provide seed money for new alliances.
  - $15,000 has been approved for this activity. RISE recently donated $3000 to the newly-formed Iowa Alliance for Environmental Concerns.

### From the field: Grassroots efforts at work

**New Jersey**: Ilona Gray, executive director of The Alliance for Environmental Concerns in Wayne, is a horticulturist by education, but she’s become a green industry activist by necessity.

Gray and others like her have one overriding concern: that pesticide legislation makes sense, and is not duplicated or changed drastically from one city to another.

“What we have found is that the local municipalities are completely unaware of what type of regulations there are in the state, and sometimes the concerns they have have already been addressed.

“Maybe what (has happened) is a misapplication on the part of some applicators in their district that can be taken care of Continued on page 12
Gray says that, generally, once town leaders hear the advice and concerns of the professional applicators, they either drop the ordinance idea or write it to be practical.

Gray stresses the importance of awareness and support for association activity. "We're asking (association) members to watch the newspapers and attend town meetings to keep track of any indication that there's going to be activity to restrict pesticides significantly. If they find out, notify us immediately."

Gray says the state lawn or landscaper associations need all the help they can get, both informationally and financially.

Oklahoma: Although the city of Edmond is the only Oklahoma town we know of operating under local pesticide regs, Brad Johnson, president of Green Up! in Tulsa is playing it smart from a public relations point-of-view: he advises do-it-yourselfers on proper lawn care via a weekly AM-band radio program.

Although Johnson admits to receiving a few calls on the heels of the latest 2,4-D report, he says the anti-pesticide feeling in Tulsa is "nothing like it is on the East Coast."

He credits the lack of public worry to the agricultural state's dependence on disease- and insect-free crops.

To the callers who did question the effect of 2,4-D on dogs, Johnson says he explains that the product has been exhaustively researched, has been in use for 40 years, and has the blessing of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though notification is not a mandate in Tulsa, Johnson takes the initiative and calls neighbors of customers beforehand, just to do what he thinks is right and fair.

Iowa: Since becoming communications point-man for the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association (IPLCA) about two years ago, Mike Grooms has had plenty to keep him busy. The state is full of activists out to ban or limit pesticide use, but the association has proven itself capable of banding together to bring about fair and practical change, or at the least, a continuance of a workable status quo.

In February of this year, the IPLCA rallied its membership to attend a critical public hearing on sign regulations. The opposition wanted 12-inch signs; IPLCA wanted to stay with the 4-by-5-inch size.

"Letters of support were written by pesticide user groups," remembers Grooms, including structural pest control operators. "We had 18 members of the association speak publicly versus three people...

Cushman Hansen

Snow blowers are of little value. The message: shop around to compare features, operating specifics and cost. Decide what you're seeking to accomplish and purchase accordingly.

Snow blowers and throwers come in