GCSAA Vice-President Roberts Testifies At Senate Hearing

"Golf and the golf course superintendent have a very real interest in reducing pesticide use," said William R. Roberts, CGCS, in testimony before a recent Senate subcommittee hearing on toxic substances and environmental oversight.

Roberts, vice president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), testified on behalf of the association.

Superintendent at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., Roberts was invited by the subcommittee to represent the 10,800 members of GCSAA. Subcommittee chairman Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) invited Roberts and GCSAA to appear because of the association's recognized leadership in the fields of turfgrass management and professional education. Roberts also testified at last year's subcommittee hearing at Sen. Reid's invitation.

In his testimony Roberts highlighted GCSAA's ongoing education programs and the association's stance on posting and pre-notification of pesticide applications. He also reconfirmed GCSAA's "diligence in asking the hard questions and finding the right answers which will lead to a minimization of overall pesticide inputs to our environment."

Roberts' testimony touched on GCSAA's willingness to work within the regulatory process. The subcommittee was briefed on the public education/public service announcement which GCSAA produced in conjunction with the EPA. The PSA, entitled "Think Before You Apply, educates homeowners about environmentally responsible lawn care practices. A copy of the television PSA was entered into the official hearing record.

The May 9 hearing also included testimony from representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, the Federal Trade Commission and the General Accounting Office.

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