

Government Relations Up Date

This spring promises to be a busy season for government relations. First on our list is to address the potential of a pesticide ban for Montgomery County, Md. This movement has been brought forward by Paul Tukey, the "Chief Sustainability Officer" for Glenstone in Potomac, MD. Paul Tukey is the founder of SafeLaws, a coalition to teach organic methods of lawn care and grounds maintenance. This movement is appealing to several members of the County Council. Currently there is no new movement on this potential ban, however we expect to see something come our way in April of 2014. We are working with MAGI to lend our support to the lawn and landscape community. Please see the links listed below for information on the environmental benefit of golf courses. For golf course superintendents in Montgomery County MD, we will be calling for your help in educating custom-

ers and members to these benefits that our industry provides.

We are also working with Mark Schlossberg from MAGI on Maryland Senate Bill 70, a bill regulating the labeling and restrictions on use and sale for fertilizers. We have several industry suppliers looking at this bill to make sure it is supportive of the Fertilizer Use Act without causing additional restrictions which will limit our ability to care for our courses.

We are sure to see another attempt for a pesticide reporting bill from the Maryland Pesticide Network and their executive director Ruth Berlin. We will again work hand in hand with MAGI and other industries to speak out against the need for this bill. We have proven that we are able to work together with the State of Maryland to protect our environment without the unnecessary complications of a burdensome reporting act.

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