

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.

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.

Local laws: what to say

■ Here are some timely tips offered by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) for arguing against local regulation of pesticide application.

If local legislators are considering such actions, be sure to notify the PLCAA at (404) 977-5222. If you so desire, the PLCAA will also offer further assistance.

When a local ordinance is proposed or about to be proposed:

- Make sure legislators know that current federal and state laws, developed by regulators with scientific and technical expertise not available on the local level, already afford sufficient protection.

- If your state laws require posting and/or pre-notification, make sure the locals know of their existence.

- If health issues are raised, let locals know that a long-term study of a major lawn care company whose employees were exposed to pesticides at their full-strength concentrations, showed no adverse health effects. Offer to provide them a copy of the study, available through the PLCAA.

Let them know that substances applied on lawns are greatly diluted and contain about 93 percent water, six percent fertilizer and just one percent pesticide.

- If environmental issues are raised, point out Dr. Tom Watschke's work at Penn State University that concluded "the impact of well-managed turfgrass on water quality appears to be positive in nature." Offer to supply copies of Watschke's study, also available through the PLCAA.

- If only commercial services are covered by the proposed ordinance(s), point out that 85 percent of all lawn care is performed by the do-it-yourselfer, who uses exactly the same products as professional lawn care companies.

If authorities still want to move ahead with the bill:

- Offer to work with local government to pass a state lawn care bill containing PLCAA-endorsed provisions.

If authorities reject to work on state bill, still want to move ahead:

- 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.

"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 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

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