

Industry urged to keep pressure on Congress to get pre-emption on fast track in fiscal 1992



■ The Federal-State Pesticide Regulation Partnership Act of 1991 may remain buried in committee in 1992.

Thousands of professional pesticide users—from lawn applicators to farmers—would rather see action, now. But 1992 is an election year. Issues such as health care and the state of the nation's economy hold the public's attention.

Admittedly, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is not a glamorous vehicle for attracting voter attention and support.

Bluntly, FIFRA is dull—even if it is up for reauthorization this year. (Look for a one year extension, instead, say sources in Washington D.C.)

And the Partnership Act is a pesticide pre-emption proposal to amend FIFRA, to keep (pre-empt) cities and towns from passing their own pesticide use regulations.

In the U.S. Senate, the pre-emption proposal is referred to as S. 2085 (sponsored by Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark.), and in the House as H.R. 3850 (sponsored by Rep. Charles Hatcher, D-Ga.). The measures are identical.

Passage of the Partnership Act could end the uncertainty



Richard Tice, left, of Greenkeepers/T&L Lawn Service and fellow lawn care professionals from Connecticut sought pesticide pre-emption support from Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.). Twenty-five representatives traveled from Connecticut to Washington D.C. to also meet with Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), lawn care's harshest critic on the Hill.

caused by the the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June 1991 that FIFRA does not prevent town and cities from passing their own pesticide-use laws.

At least that's what the green industry—particularly applicators and chemical suppliers—believe will happen. And hope for. The intent of S. 2085 and H.R. 3850 is clear: "A local government shall not impose or continue in effect any requirement or regulation regarding pesticides or devices."

But its passage is not imminent.

"Our goal is to put enough pressure on through co-sponsorships on the senate and house side for the committee chairmen to realize something should be done now, instead of waiting a year," says Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), a pro-industry group.



These lawn care professionals from Ohio—left to right, Mark Laube, Lawnmark, Bill Clutter, TurfGard Company, and Phil Fogarty, Crowley Lawn Service—discussed pre-emption with a veteran staff member of Senator John Glenn (D-Ohio).

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