

Subject: School IPM at the national level
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Greetings Everyone,

I wanted to share with you a couple of emails that ws placed on the national schooll bugs listserv.

1 - On December 1st, Rep. Rush Holt (NJ) and 14 cosponsors introduced a new and improved version of the School Environment Protection Act (SEPA) -- HR 4159
<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/schools/sepa/SEPA_H.R.4159.pdf> . This bill will take hazardous pesticides out of the schools nationwide, requiring the adoption of defined pest management methods in schools that prohibit chemicals with listed adverse health and environmental effects and missing data. It creates a national School IPM (integrated pest management) Advisory Board with independent authority to establish the allowable "least-toxic" materials in schools with a technical advisory panel (modeled on the National Organic Standards Board).

2 - (repeat from #1)

New Jersey Congressman Introduced Federal School

Pest Management Legislation

As anticipated, the School Environment Protection Act (SEPA) - very prescriptive, prohibitive legislation pertaining to the management of pests in schools - was introduced on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 in the U.S. House of Representatives. A version of SEPA has been introduced during the last five sessions of Congress. The bill sponsor, Democratic Congressman Rush Holt of New Jersey, developed the measure in conjunction with the activist group Beyond Pesticides.

H.R. 4159 imposes bureaucratic notification requirements upon school districts, arbitrarily limits the use of pesticides at schools that have already been expressly approved for use at schools, and creates uniform standards and criteria for integrated pest management in schools.

NPMA opposes SEPA in its present form because it is one-size fits all legislation that would require schools in Alabama to manage pests the same as schools in Alaska. Moreover, the bill ignores the fact that 38 states have approved or implemented a state law or rule expressly related to the management of pests at schools. A number of states have had school pest management laws or rules in place for more than 15 years. SEPA's enactment would undermine much of this longstanding and laudable activity. NPMA has developed alternative school pest management legislation that supplements - not set back - the admirable work done by the states.

Click here <<http://t.ymlp171.com/ujyewalaehbanaumyualamqjw/click.php>> to read the bill, click here <<http://t.ymlp171.com/ujyeqadaehbafaumyualamqjw/click.php>> and enter H.R. 4159 into the bill search box to read the list of cosponsors and other related information, and here <<http://t.ymlp171.com/ujyeyataehbaiaumyuarumqjw/click.php>> to see Beyond Pesticides' press release announcing the bill's introduction.

3 - (The link for the full report is at the end of this narrative. Please download and read) In a new report, The Schooling of State Pesticide Laws - 2010 Update, Beyond Pesticides shows that children are in danger from daily pesticide use at schools across the country. Although two-thirds of the states, or 35 states, have adopted laws that address pesticide use at school, these pesticide use policies and practices remain deficient in the protection of children, according to the report.

The report reviews state school pest management laws that attempt to create healthier learning environments and provides an analysis of our nation's progress over the past decade using the following five evaluation criteria: (i) adoption of an integrated pest management (IPM) program; (ii) prohibiting when and where pesticides can be applied; (iii) requiring posting signs for indoor and outdoor pesticide applications; (iv) requiring prior written notification for pesticide use; and, (v) establishing restricted spray (buffer) zones to address chemicals drifting into school yards and school buildings. These five criteria are all basics not provided for under federal law and are essential ingredients to protect children from pesticides while they are at school. The degree of state activity suggests a level of concern that can and should lead to increased protection in the future.

Just barely over a decade ago, Beyond Pesticides published the first "Schooling of State Pesticide Laws" report and since that time, considerable progress has been made. For example, since 1998, in the two most important areas of reform, IPM and chemical restrictions, there is a 24 percent and 22 percent increase, respectively, in state policies.

Beyond Pesticides' 2009 survey of state laws regarding pesticide use at schools shows that:

- 21 states recommend or require schools to use IPM, a 24% increase since 1998;
- 18 states restrict when or what pesticides may be applied in schools, a 22% increase since 1998;
- 18 states require the posting of signs for indoor school pesticide applications, a 22% increase since 1998;
- 28 states require the posting of signs for pesticide applications made on school grounds, a 12% increase since 1998;
- 24 states require prior written notification to students, parents, or staff before a pesticide application is made at schools, a 30% increase since 1998; and,
- 9 states recognize the importance of controlling drift by restricting pesticide applications in areas neighboring a school, a mere 6% increase since 1998.

To read the full report, see <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/report/Schooling2010.pdf>

Look for a full issue of the School Pest News before the holiday break we will have information about the statewide conference, our training schedule for 2010 and so much more.

For more information about school IPM, go to <http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>

To join or leave this listserv, reply to this e-mail with SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject heading.

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