

***Mosquito control professionals are responsible for protecting humans and wildlife from diseases transmitted by the world's most dangerous animal – the mosquito. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), improved mosquito control capability is needed to prevent the increasing emergence and spread of exotic diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.***



**AMCA supports the need for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to invest the time, personnel, and resources necessary to create reliable Endangered Species Act (ESA) models that reflect the fate of a pesticide's use in a mosquito control application.**

It is recognized that EPA must determine whether pesticide use can adversely affect endangered and threatened species. However, the EPA should use the best available data and develop an appropriate methodology that reliably assesses potential risk from pesticides used for mosquito control. EPA's current methodologies and assumptions rely on agricultural uses of pesticides, which far exceeds the amount of product and type of applications employed for mosquito control.

The 2018 Farm Bill established a Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Interagency Working Group to provide recommendations and develop a strategy for improving the pesticide consultation process. This Working Group should be encouraged to assist EPA in the development of appropriate ESA models for mosquito control. EPA should be strongly encouraged to develop these models in conjunction with mosquito control program stakeholders such as AMCA.



**AMCA supports the use of Integrated Mosquito Management on or near cannabis, hemp, and organic farms.**

The growth of organic farming over the years, along with the recent expansion of both cannabis and hemp production across the United States, has presented a new challenge to Vector Control Districts. With very few products labeled for mosquito control use in these farming practices, there is a greater concern with increasing pesticide resistance in mosquito populations. Furthermore, the lack of pesticides that are registered to control mosquitoes on cannabis, hemp, and organic farms creates a gap in the public health infrastructure to manage future vector-borne public health outbreaks.

AMCA urges the EPA to recognize that Integrated Mosquito Management needs to occur in and around cannabis, hemp, and organic farms. To facilitate this urgent need, we must fund the development of more organic pesticides that are labeled for mosquito control. Simultaneously, research needs to be conducted to develop scientific-based tolerances for cannabis and hemp crops.



### **AMCA supports the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in vector control programs.**

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), better known as drones, for use in the vector control industry provides numerous efficiencies, advantages, and safety over ground or manned aerial applications. UASs for mosquito control require a special provision within future legislation regarding drone use. AMCA is concerned that bills introduced in this legislative session are too restrictive in limiting the use of UAS for public health and vector control purposes. Vector control already faces many challenges, such as the spread of invasive mosquitoes, and disease outbreaks such as West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and Zika. UAS technology is helping public agencies develop next-generation tools to meet these challenges and best utilize limited resources to provide continued public health protection to the public.

AMCA is requesting that any legislation concerning this subject matter needs to recognize the legitimate use of UAS by public and private mosquito and vector control entities with a mission to protect public health and safety and not unduly restrict our ability to explore potential future uses of unmanned aircraft for vector control.



### **AMCA supports the following funding measures for FY23:**

**Request for Agriculture Appropriations Bill - Agricultural Research Service - \$1,638,496,000 (plus up of \$5 million from FY22 Enacted)**

AND

**Request for Interior Appropriations Bill - EPA; Science and Technology Account - Funding level with FY22 House proposal - \$750,174,000**

If allocated, the funding would be instrumental in the development of pesticide spray drift modeling for mosquito control applications. The Agricultural Research Services' Aerial Application Technology Research Unit has been working with

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mosquito control officials to identify weaknesses in pesticide spray drift models that focus primarily on agricultural and forestry applications and negatively impact the availability of mosquito control pesticides as a result. Improved spray drift modeling would allow the EPA to update its pesticide review methodology for mosquito control applications.

**Request for Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill - \$698,272,000 for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Account (\$45 million for Epidemiology and Lab Capacity, of which \$5 million is requested to update spray drift models used in the pesticide registration process). This represents a total plus-up of \$5 million from the enacted FY22 omnibus.**

We urge the CDC to direct funding from within the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) budget to coordinate with states, mosquito control districts, universities, and other federal partners on updating spray drift models used in the pesticide registration process. Furthermore, this request encourages the CDC, consistent with the provisions of the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (P.L. 116-22), to increase support for state and local mosquito control programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne diseases surveillance and control.