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FLORIDA PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY UNITES TO DEFEAT
NEGATIVE AMENDMENT

***Thanks to Members and Key Industry Representatives
for Successful Grassroots Campaign***

Over the last couple of weeks, key people at the varied associations representing the lawn and pest control industries at the state and national levels pulled together and went into battle mode to squash proposed legislation that would significantly weaken certification and training requirements for lawn and ornamental pest control licensure.

The battle was won. The amendment was withdrawn. And, many thanks to everyone who participated in a grassroots lobbying effort described as “phenomenal and far better than anything I've seen come out of Florida, ever,” according to **Bob Rosenberg**, senior vice president of the National Pest Management Association.

“Battles are about making strategy and building the team, with a commitment to win,” noted FPMA Government Affairs Group Chairman **D.R. Sapp, Jr.** “All these factors were engaged in the campaign to defeat the proposed amendment to HB 7075/SB 1388, which was due to be heard by the House Agriculture and Environmental Appropriations Committee this legislative session.”

Sapp said that members of the Florida Pest Management Association, the National Pest Management Association, the Certified Pest Control Operators Association, the Certified Operators of SW Florida, and the Professional Landcare Network went into action with a unified front.

“The members of each association made the difference; your voice was heard and turned the tide. Our collective thanks to all the small and large operators who went to bat for our cause, your efforts are much appreciated. We hit a homerun for the industry and consumers.” said Sapp. “And, certainly our efforts helped the small company most of all. If this legislation passed, small operators would have been hit hard.”

After meeting with members of the industry in the form of the Florida Professional Applicators Alliance and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

Representative **Ralph Poppell**, author of the amendment, withdrew his proposed legislation after weighing all the information presented.

“Clearly, Mr. Poppell wants to do what is best for all concerned and we thank him for hearing us out, and making a decision to not proceed,” said FPMA’s Government Affairs Director **Matt Dempsey**. “Once he had all the facts and saw how passionate and together our industry was on this issue, he changed his mind. It shows how important it is to have open communication with our legislators, keep them informed, and never give up.”

The Florida Pest Management Association wants to give special thanks to those key people in front of and behind the scenes who played pivotal roles in this grassroots campaign from start to finish:

FPMA Government Affairs Director Matt Dempsey
FPMA Government Affairs Group Chairman D.R. Sapp, Jr.
FPMA President David Pomfret
FPMA President-Elect Jennifer Leggett
FPMA Communications Director Dawn Rivera
FPMA Executive Vice President Karen S. Barnett
TruGreen Regional Technical Manager Erica Santella
NPMA Senior Vice President Bob Rosenberg
NPMA Director of Government Affairs Gene Harrington
Professional Landcare Network Director of Government Affairs Tom Delaney
CPCO Executive Vice President Mike Beckers
CPCO Past President Richard Meahl
COSWFL Volunteer Education Coordinator Pete Quartuccio
COSWFL Representatives Ray and Nick Libretto

For more information on the grassroots lobbying effort, contact FPMA at (800) 426-4829.