



May 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the U.S. House of Representatives moves forward with the “Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017” (H.R. 953), we would like to highlight the impact that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit (PGP) program has on county governments’ ability to respond promptly and effectively to emerging public health threats.

As the summer months approach and we enter mosquito season, counties are concerned about the health and safety impacts of mosquito-borne illnesses such as Zika. The Zika virus is an emerging mosquito-borne illness, primarily stemming from the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, and there is no vaccine. Since mosquitoes and their breeding habitats pose the largest threat to public safety, counties can play a major role in minimizing the potential spread of the virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses through public education and mosquito eradication.

However, since EPA’s PGP program was instituted in 2011, counties have reported that they have either significantly scaled back or discontinued mosquito abatement programs due to additional, duplicative and expensive paperwork and monitoring obligations required under the permit. We recommend that Congress address some of the challenges posed by EPA’s PGP permit to allow counties to more quickly respond to mosquito-based public health threats.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NACo Associate Legislative Director Julie Ufner at 202.924.4269 or jufner@naco.org. We look forward to continuing to work with you on issues important to counties.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties