



STATE POLICY AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES (SPAR) PROGRAM

NPMA PUBLIC POLICY

The National Pest Management Association's (NPMA) Public Policy Department works to advance policy that promotes and protects the structural pest management industry. NPMA is headquartered just outside Washington D.C., the nation's capital, giving the organization direct access to United States Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This location allows our team to represent the industry in all D.C.-based federal affairs; however, NPMA cannot enjoy the same proximity to our nation's state legislatures.

State governments have the power to create additional restrictions on pesticides, making it the most likely stage where stricter laws and regulations can pass through undetected. For the five states that do not have pesticide preemption, this is even more true as not just state governments, but local governments as well, are able to further restrict pesticide products. To counteract anything that arises and to ensure that state associations have a voice to represent them in issues, NPMA created the SPAR program.

THE SPAR PROGRAM

The State Policy Affairs Representatives (SPARs) program, created officially in 2016, is a comprehensive network of public policy leaders who represent their state association.

As part of our SPAR Program, NPMA's Public Policy Team works with SPARs and state association leaders to coordinate state-level policy efforts. Organizing pest professionals to influence the policy-making process is a deeply effective tool for ensuring government officials adhere to the will of the public they govern.

SPARs are members of both their state association and NPMA. These members work full-time in the industry while also volunteering to protect and advocate for the industry. These individuals are extremely passionate and dedicated to the mission of protecting public health and advocating for thoughtful science-based decision-making.

When a legislative or regulatory issue is introduced that would impact the operations of a pest management

business, SPARs act as the voice of the state's industry. Their efforts safeguard against policies that would ban or restrict products, impose increased taxes on services, and impose unworkable regulations.

THE ROLE OF NPMA

NPMA's Public Policy Team offers numerous resources to our SPARs, from tracking and monitoring legislation, coordinating policy-focused member conversations, to drafting language amendments and hearing testimony, launching messaging campaigns, and anything else it takes to secure a successful outcome. To remain focused and organized, the policy team can craft a strategic advocacy plan on specific initiatives, such as pesticide bans and attempts to roll back state-level preemption.

NOMINATIONS & TERM CYCLES

SPARs represent their state association and industry for two-year terms, with each new term starting in the even-numbered year. There is no limit to the number of SPARs per state, no term limits, and SPARs can serve consecutively.

NPMA asks each state's association board of directors to nominate and confirm at least one SPAR and Vice-SPAR for the upcoming term.

NPMA CONTACTS

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