

## Talking Points for Congressional Meeting

- **Our industry's scale and impact:** I'm part of a profession that employs more than 150,000 skilled workers nationwide—three-quarters of all tree care professionals—who protect community safety, maintain public spaces, and preserve urban and rural forests.
- **Trees matter to every community:** Healthy trees improve air quality, reduce energy costs, prevent storm damage, and increase property values. Protecting them from invasive species is critical to both our environment and our economy.
- **The growing threat of invasive species:** Pests like the Emerald Ash Borer have already destroyed millions of trees across the U.S. Without access to consistent, science-based treatments, we risk losing even more of our tree canopy.
- **The need for regulatory consistency:** Tree care professionals often work across multiple towns and counties in a single day. A patchwork of local pesticide bans creates confusion, compliance challenges, and delays in urgent treatments.
- **Trust the experts:** State agencies and the EPA already have the expertise, training, and infrastructure to regulate pesticides safely and effectively. Local ordinances—while well-intentioned—risk undermining this science-based system.
- **Safety and professionalism:** Tree care professionals are licensed applicators who follow Integrated Pest Management practices, apply pesticides only when necessary, and use closed-system methods such as trunk injections that minimize environmental exposure.
- **Consequences of local overreach:** Unscientific local bans could prevent us from treating pests in time, leading to greater tree loss, higher costs for communities, and increased risks such as falling trees, wildfires, or power outages.
- **The Farm Bill opportunity:** Including language in the 2025 Farm Bill to affirm state-level pesticide preemption under FIFRA will provide certainty, protect science-based regulation, and allow us to fight invasive species effectively.
- **Our industry is ready:** The tree care industry stands ready to work with Congress to ensure invasive species are managed responsibly and communities continue to enjoy the environmental and economic benefits of healthy trees.

# Protecting America's Trees from Invasive Species - A Priority for the Tree Care Industry

## Who We Are

The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) represents more than **1,400 companies employing 150,000 professionals**—three-quarters of all tree care workers in the U.S. Our members maintain and protect trees across communities, businesses, and infrastructure nationwide.

## Why Trees Matter

Healthy trees deliver benefits that touch every American:

- Cleaner air and reduced energy costs
- Increased property values and storm protection
- Safer utility corridors and reduced wildfire risk
- Critical carbon sequestration and stormwater management

## The Growing Threat

Invasive species like the **Emerald Ash Borer** are devastating our nation's tree canopy. Effective, timely treatment requires access to proven tools—yet local-level bans and conflicting ordinances are putting our work, and tree health, at risk.

## The Problem with Patchwork Rules

- Tree care professionals often work across multiple cities and counties in a single day.
- A patchwork of local pesticide ordinances creates confusion and delays.
- Local bans may prevent treatment when it matters most, leading to greater tree loss, public safety hazards, and higher community costs.

## A Science-Based Solution

For decades, the **EPA and state lead agencies** have co-regulated pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This framework ensures:

- Decisions grounded in **science, not politics**
- Regulation by trained experts in toxicology and environmental safety
- Uniform enforceable rules for licensed applicators who already follow strict certification and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) standards

## The Farm Bill Opportunity

Congress can help protect America's trees by including language in the **2025 Farm Bill** to:

- Affirm that **state lead agencies and the EPA are the sole authorities** for pesticide regulation
- Prevent a confusing patchwork of local ordinances
- Ensure tree care professionals can continue fighting invasive species safely and effectively

## Our Ask

We urge Congress to support **state-level pesticide preemption** in the 2025 Farm Bill—maintaining a consistent, science-based framework that protects tree health, public safety, and the environment for generations to come.