Mosquito control professionals are responsible for protecting humans and wildlife from diseases transmitted by the world’s most dangerous animal – the mosquito. To address the growing threat to public health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), five federal departments, and the Environmental Protection Agency developed a joint National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans.

AMCA supports funding to improve local mosquito-borne disease control capacity.

The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act provisions in P.L. 116-22 enjoyed broad bipartisan support and will provide grants for local mosquito control programs in FY 2022 if appropriations are made by Congress. An additional increase in the CDC’s budget of $100 million for this purpose is needed to fund critical vector monitoring, control, and disease reporting measures.

AMCA also supports funding for the continuation of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) Public Health Pesticides Program, which provides vital assistance for research studies supporting regulatory requirements for vector control products needed to maintain public health and welfare.

AMCA supports provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill that Established a FIFRA Interagency Working Group to provide recommendations and develop a strategy for improving the pesticide consultation process under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to realistically assess potential impacts of mosquito control operations on listed species.

The EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service should base Endangered Species Act (ESA) decisions on probabilistic risk assessments based on realistic pesticide usage data and updated critical habitat assumptions. The current risk assessments are failing to incorporate the best available science, resulting in products used for controlling mosquitoes being unnecessarily restricted.

Actual risk should be the universal standard, not assumptions based on outdated data and exaggerated use patterns. The AMCA strongly supports the need for the ESA, but the current interpretation and implementation jeopardizes the health of humans and wildlife by restricting mosquito control methods.