



July 22, 2019

The Honorable Chris Smith  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Stakeholder Support for Bill on Vector-Borne Disease

Dear Representative Smith,

On behalf of the Vector-Borne Disease Network, we the undersigned organizations write to articulate our support for the objectives of H.R. 3073 Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout Act or the “TICK Act,” which aims to combat the escalating burden of vector-borne disease (VBD). The Vector-Borne Disease Network is a stakeholder group of organizations led by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) that aims to reduce human and animal suffering caused by arthropod disease vectors.

Illnesses such as Lyme disease, Zika, Malaria, and West Nile virus are transmitted by vector organisms, primarily blood-feeding insects or arthropods. Vectors ingest disease-causing germs when biting an infected human or animal and later inject them into a new host during a subsequent bite.

Between 2004 and 2016, reported human disease cases in the U.S. resulting from bites from arthropods—primarily ticks and mosquitoes—tripled, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).[1] Meanwhile, nine new germs spread by ticks and mosquitoes were discovered or introduced in that same timeframe. Disease vectors also pose significant threats to both livestock and companion animals. The underlying causes for these trends are varying and complex, and so are the potential solutions.

Due to all the challenges mentioned above, and the growing threat to American health and security posed by VBD, the Vector-Borne Disease Network is pleased to see new legislation that aims to establish an Office of Oversight and Coordination for Vector-Borne Disease within the Department of Health and Human Services to promote interagency coordination; develop a maintain a national plan for responding to VBD; reauthorize the CDC Regional Centers of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease for five years; and authorize a cooperative agreement through CDC to support state health department efforts to improve surveillance, diagnosis, and education.

On behalf of this coalition of stakeholders invested in the mission to reduce the public-health and economic risks posed by ticks and mosquitoes, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Mosquito Control Association  
Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County (FL)  
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in New Jersey  
Drexel University, College of Medicine  
Entomological Society of America  
Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Georgia Mosquito Control Association  
Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association  
Lyme Association of Greater Kansas City, Inc.  
Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector Borne Disease  
National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials  
National Pest Management Association  
New Jersey Mosquito Control Association  
North Fork Deer Management Alliance  
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases  
Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases  
School of Veterinary Medicine at UW-Madison  
Southeastern Regional Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases  
The New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission  
Tickborne Disease Prevention Laboratory, Western Connecticut State University  
TickEncounter Resource Center, University of Rhode Island  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
University of Rhode Island Center for Vector-Borne Disease  
US Biologic  
Warren County Mosquito Control Commission (NJ)  
Western Gulf Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Diseases