

## Rodney StJohn

---

This email is best viewed by reading the attached PDF. Recently, I promised a follow-up email about the EPA's WaterSense Program. Tom Delaney from the Professional Landcare Network has summed it up very well. The EPA is interested in hearing from you. The public comment period ends on July 7, 2009. Tom's email details who you should contact and how.

I hope you all read Tom's letter and take some time follow Tom's instructions and contact the right people and let them know how you think the specifications should be written. Time is running out.



**Legislative  
Alert**

[LandcareNetwork.org](http://LandcareNetwork.org)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be accepting comments on its latest WaterSense draft specification until July 7, 2009, and plans to issue a final specification in November. As currently drafted, this specification will have a drastic impact on our industry, so we need you to contact our legislators now and ask them to help bring our concerns to the EPA's attention.

In May, Congressional Water Caucus Cochairs Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) and John Linder (R-Ga.) sent a letter to the EPA expressing concern with the proposed turfgrass deselection and requesting revisions to the specification. We would like you to ask your congressional representatives to consider sending a similar letter to the agency, asking that the landscape provisions be set aside to allow for a stakeholder process to improve the specification and advance the goals of water efficiency.

To make this as easy as possible, the following hyperlinks will take you to documents you can use to contact your senators and representatives about the WaterSense new homes draft specs:

1. [WaterSense sample constituent letter templates](#) — There are two versions of the letter: one from a [lawn care/landscape management](#) perspective and the other from a [seed/sod producer](#) perspective. Please use the appropriate letter to write your U.S. senators and House members, and either fax or e-mail it to them. You may personalize it by including information about your own situation, how these draft specs will adversely affect your business, etc.

2. [Talking points and WaterSense draft landscape criteria in brief](#) — This document contains additional information you can use to include in your letter to make it more personal as well as a brief overview of the draft. The talking points were agreed on by the National Turfgrass Federation board members.

The full draft spec can be found on the Web at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home\\_rev-draftspec508.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home_rev-draftspec508.pdf), the water budget tool information can be found at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home\\_waterbudget508.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/docs/home_waterbudget508.pdf), and the EPA WaterSense new homes specs Web site is <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm>.

We would appreciate copies of any communication you have with your U.S. senators and/or House members. Please contact me and forward letters/e-mails, etc. to me so that we know who has been contacted. We can then follow up with that office to encourage them to contact the EPA.

The following is a list by state of how many people sent emails from PLANET's Legislative Action center telling their members of Congress that EPA has it all wrong on the value of turfgrass in the landscape. Surely more lawn and landscape companies, applicators and suppliers believe turfgrass is important to their businesses and their state's economy? Please forward to your members. EPA will not listen to the industry so maybe they will listen to members of Congress. Thanks  
Tom

1 AZ 4 CA 6 CO 1 CT 2 FL 16 GA 1 IL 1 IN **1 KS** 7 MA 1 MD 2 MI 1 MN **1 MO** 13 NC 1 NE 3 NJ 1 NV 13 OH 1 OR 3 PA 2 SC 5 TX 4 VA 1 VT 3 WA 2 WI

Again, thank for your interest in and action on this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Tom Delaney  
Director of Government Affairs  
Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)  
(800) 395-2522  
(703) 736-9668 (fax)  
[tomdelaney@landcarenetwork.org](mailto:tomdelaney@landcarenetwork.org)

---

**Professional Landcare Network**  
The association of members who create and  
maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America.  
950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450, Herndon, VA 20170 . (800) 395-2522 . Fax (703) 736-9668  
[LandcareNetwork.org](http://LandcareNetwork.org)

Rodney St. John, Ph.D.  
State Turfgrass Extension Specialist  
Kansas State University  
Horticulture Research and Extension Center  
35230 W. 135th St.  
Olathe, KS 66061  
913-856-2335 ext 110  
913-856-2350 Fax  
[www.KSUTurf.com](http://www.KSUTurf.com)