



Issue: **Formation of State/Municipal Bed Bug Task Force/Working Group/Advisory Committee**

Background: Over the last decade the bed bug population in the United States has skyrocketed. Bed bugs are now regularly found in single and multi-family housing, lodging facilities, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, college dormitories, and countless other settings. The problem is now so widespread and deeply entrenched that a recent Rasmussen poll found that 20 percent of people had recently changed travel plans to avoid public places because of fear of bed bugs.

Elected officials and other policy makers at all levels of government are considering a myriad of initiatives aimed at addressing the bed bug resurgence more aggressively. A first step many governmental bodies take to respond to the bed bug problem is the formation of a bed bug task force, working group or advisory committee. Such bodies are an effective vehicle through which to more closely examine the various aspects of the bed bug problem and all of the problems associated with the pest's resurgence. Moreover, in addition to providing elected and administrative officials with direction and guidance through findings and recommendations these panels also help raise awareness of the issue in their respective jurisdictions.

Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York City, Cincinnati, and Boston are just a few jurisdictions that have, through legislative or administrative action, created bed bug task forces or working groups.

Position: NPMA is very supportive of states and municipal governments establishing bed bug task forces, working groups or advisory committees provided that a broad number of stakeholders are involved and the industry is fairly and adequately represented on the committee. NPMA also believes bed bug related regulation – especially policy related to bed bug management activities – must be adopted and implemented at a statewide level by the state lead pesticide regulatory agency so as to avoid a patchwork quilt of confusing and sometime conflicting municipal ordinances.

