



# 2008 WAA Legislative Summary

by Jeff Treu

## Arboriculture Standards and OSHA

On June 25, OSHA's compliance directorate released a directive that would have wiped out commercial arboriculture as we know it, forcing all companies to adopt unsafe practices designed for the logging industry. Tree Care Industry Association went to work immediately in Washington and pledged, in an Aug. 8 regulatory alert to members, that the association would "not rest until this directive is rescinded."

Effective August 21, the directive has been rescinded!

To read more, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/resources/Insider/pdf/treecareindustryRegAlert.pdf>.

## Urban Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species Underway

Wisconsin's urban forests are particularly vulnerable to invasive species due to heavy use and close proximity to sources of invasives (ornamental plantings and ports of entry). Wisconsin's urban forestry community has responded to this threat by launching the development of Urban Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species in Wisconsin. These will be voluntary standards of practice to aid in the management and control of invasive plants, invertebrates, and diseases in and around Wisconsin's "built environments." The situation-specific recommendations will provide guidance incorporating invasive species considerations into routine urban forestry activities to limit the spread of invasive species. The effort kicks off on May 20th with a meeting of the advisory committee, under the leadership of arborist Bruce Allison. This is one of four parallel tracks, each focused on a segment of the forest resource and associated user groups. Two tracks already underway are developing Invasive Species BMPs for forest management activities and for recreational forest users. For more information: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>. 5/08

## Business Mileage Reimbursement

The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

## New publications available from ISA

The following publications are available at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com):

*BMP: Lightning Protection*, 2nd Edition P1315

*New A300 Lightning Standard* P1247

*Pruning A300* P1228

*Municipal Specialist Certification Study Guide* MS1003

## Mayors

The US Conference of Mayors recently passed a resolution supporting Congress funding the U&CF program annual budget at no less than \$100 million. For more information visit <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>. The mayors also endorsed H.R. 5867, the Energy Conservation through Trees Act and the Invasive Species Revolving Loan Fund. These resolutions may be used as conversation starters with mayors—thank-ing them, sharing with them how important the urban forest is to their community, etc.

## H.R.5867

H.R.5867 establishes a grant program to assist retail power providers with the establishment and operation of energy conservation programs using targeted residential tree planting, and for other purposes.

*Latest Major Action:* 4/22/2008 referred to House subcommittee.

*Status:* Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.