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nation have been consumed with more pressing budgetary and economic matters.

Given the dearth of action at the state level, this is an opportune time for school districts to move forward and implement green cleaning programs locally within their respective facilities. Guidelines issued by states such as Illinois, Missouri, and New York in support of their respective green cleaning for schools laws serve as a wonderful "roadmap" for schools in transitioning to a green cleaning platform. These state guidelines serve as a valuable resource by providing school districts with structured programs that have been proven in the field.

Moreover, there is ample evidence to suggest that transitioning to a green cleaning program can reduce costs associated with cleaning due to a reduction in inventory and waste, along with increased productivity. Coupled with anticipated environmental benefits, the case for environmentally preferable cleaning has never been stronger.

Bill Balek is the Director of Environmental Services for ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association. As such, Balek is actively engaged in the process of developing and promoting public policy, programs, and initiatives that help companies succeed in the green cleaning marketplace.