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Alaska -- Arizona -- California -- Colorado -- Hawaii -- Idaho -- Montana
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Illinois -- Indiana -- Iowa -- Kansas -- Michigan -- Minnesota -- Missouri
North Dakota -- Nebraska -- Ohio
South Dakota -- Wisconsin



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Connecticut -- Delaware -- Massachusetts -- Maryland -- Maine
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Rhode Island -- Vermont -- West Virginia

SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD:
Alabama -- Arkansas -- Florida -- Georgia -- Kentucky -- Louisiana
Mississippi -- North Carolina -- Oklahoma -- Puerto Rico -- South
Carolina -- Tennessee -- Texas -- Virginia

Ken Rauscher, President

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-4087

Gray Haun, Vice-President

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Division of Regulatory Services
P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
615-837-5338

Aurelio Posadas, Secretary-Treasurer

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
1220 N Street, Room A-316
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-654-0317

**2005 Annual Meeting
Biloxi, Mississippi**

RESOLUTION NO. 7

NATIONAL HONEY BEE SURVEY

Currently, U.S. beekeepers find certification standards for exporting honey bees to other countries severely restrictive. It is virtually impossible to certify U.S. honeybees apparently free of certain pests not known to occur in the U.S. since no national survey/certification program exists. Necessary surveys include, but are not limited to pests such as *Tropilaelaps clareae* and other pests/diseases not known to occur in the U.S. Certification/surveys are needed to permit U.S. shipments to other countries not known to have such pests and also to prevent shipments from countries known to have them once it is proven they do not exist in the U. S.

Additionally, the Africanized honey bee, *Apis mellifera scutellata*, (AHB), poses a serious threat to the public safety and the viability of the beekeeping industry and the pollination of crops in the U.S. By May 2005, 59 of 653 suspicious swarms trapped in Florida, and 5 of 39 swarms caught near the Port of Mobile in 2004, have been identified as being Africanized to varying degrees using approved diagnostic tests. This problem is expected to be compounded as South and Central American countries will likely request permits to ship honey bees to the U.S. which will be genetically Africanized. The USDA-APHIS-PPQ is now allowing the importation of honey bee queens and packaged bees from Australia and New Zealand under free trade negotiations.

Be it resolved, The National Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi on August 10th, 2005, hereby urges USDA-APHIS-PPQ and/or USDA-APHIS-VS initiate and fund a national survey program to allow U.S. shipments of honey bee queens and packages to foreign countries;

Be it further resolved, The National Plant Board, AIA, and USDA-APHIS-PPQ and CSREES work cooperatively to develop and implement a uniform AHB Action Plan for the Southern states including Best Management Practices (BMP's), outreach, and other activities.

Motion: Harry Fulton, MS

Seconded by: Richard Gaskalla, FL

Distribution:

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA

Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Gary Cunningham, Associate Administrator, CSREES
Harry Fulton, President, Apiary Inspectors of America
David Ellingson, President, American Beekeepers Association
Steve Park, President American Honey Producers Association
National Plant Board, President
National Plant Board, Board of Directors