

**Ken Rauscher, President**

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

**Gray Haun, Vice-President**

Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
Division of Plant Industry  
P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station  
Nashville, TN 37204  
615-837-5338  
walker.haun@state.tn.us

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**Carl Schulze, Secretary-Treasurer**

New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Division of Plant Industry  
P.O. Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-5441  
carl.schulze@ag.state.nj.us

**Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary**

National Plant Board  
P.O. BOX 847  
Elk Grove, CA 95759  
916-709-3484  
aureliop@elkgrove.net

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**2006 ANNUAL MEETING  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8**

**EXPORT CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION**

Increased workloads and decreased staffing have placed burdens on state and federal resources. It is becoming increasingly difficult for state and federal inspectors in many states to meet the certification needs of the export community in a timely and efficient manner. In large part, this is due to the increased federal emphasis on inspection of each individual product prior to the issuance of phytosanitary certificates, regardless of the pest risk associated with the product.

The inability to provide timely export certification can place local exporters at a competitive disadvantage and have negative impacts on the local and state economy. Additionally, it is generally not economically viable for exports in more remote areas to seek certification at ports of export.

Commodities with a low risk of harboring pests and a high degree of consistency are generally eligible for certification under compliance agreements and/or memoranda of understanding. As such, less time might need to be spent by state and federal inspectors on detailed and time-consuming inspections and issuance of phytosanitary certificates. Time-savings realized by the field staff could be redirected to critical pest detection and intervention functions vital to safeguarding American agriculture and natural resources.

**RESOLVED**, by the membership of the National Plant Board at its annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 16, 2006, that we request that USDA, APHIS, PPQ conduct a review of risk-based options, including the use of compliance agreements and/or memoranda of understanding, in order to reduce the frequency of inspections required for export certification of commodities such as machined and kiln dried lumber, flour, and other low risk products.

**Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, Resolutions/Policy Committee**

**Seconded by: Sancho Dickinson, OK Member**

**Distribution:**

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA  
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Acting Under Secretary, USDA  
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA, APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
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