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**NATIONAL PLANT BOARD**

*February 23, 2017*

**RESOLUTION No. 1**

**Funding to Support Training for State Departments of Agriculture**

WHEREAS the member states of the National Plant Board (NPB) desire to improve the professional expertise of staff and managers that administer plant protection inspection, certification, regulatory and export certification programs.

WHEREAS states desire to ensure as much consistency and uniformity as possible between themselves and with USDA APHIS PPQ (APHIS) efforts.

WHEREAS other federal agencies such as EPA, FDA, USFS provide and sponsor professional and scientific training for their state partners.

WHEREAS the EPA directs \$500,000 of state cooperative agreement funding appropriated to support state pesticide programs to support their highly acclaimed and very successful Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP) and Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Program (PIRT) courses.

WHEREAS APHIS has an existing Professional Development Center (PDC) that currently has limited curriculum for state personnel and limited resources to fully support state training needs.

WHEREAS there is a need for sustainable funding to fully support quality training for states.

RESOLVED, that the National Plant Board

1. requests APHIS-PPQ identify funding options, such as funds from cooperative agreements, cost-share arrangements with states, etc., and possible changes to Federal appropriations language to facilitate the expanded use of various fund sources to achieve training objectives.

2. will create a standing committee charged with providing administrative oversight and identifying training priorities for the NPB membership.

3. requests that APHIS PPQ develop options to provide administrative support, coordinate a state training program, and work with the NPB Training Committee in the development and delivery of training at the USDA APHIS Professional Development Center, other locations or through contracted public universities or other appropriate entities.

**Distribution:**

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