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Resolution No. 2

RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) AND USDA, APHIS, PPQ AND ITS COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURAL MISSION MANDATES

With the establishment of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2003, USDA, APHIS, PPQ share the mission of safeguarding America's agricultural and natural resources. Given the continuing and even elevating threats of introduced plant pest species, it is imperative that the agricultural mission component remains a strong and viable component of the DHS mission.

In response, CBP and USDA, APHIS, PPQ have established the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Partnership Council, a group which includes representatives from the state and federal sectors, including the National Plant Board. Additionally, CBP and APHIS co-hosted a joint agency Agriculture Stakeholder Conference with over 200 participants from CBP, APHIS, states, and industry in 2008. It is expected the group will co-host a second conference in the near future. With state and federal partners, CBP has developed the Pest Risk Committee structure as an excellent mechanism to improve communications and cooperation between CBP, State Plant Regulatory Officials and other partners.

Further, CBP's Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison has implemented a formal agriculture outreach program at the national, field office, and port of entry levels. In a strong effort to build an effective human resource element, CBP has created a comprehensive Agriculturist career ladder and recruitment plan, along with the establishment of a rigorous training program for the Agricultural Specialists developed by CBP and USDA, APHIS.

Based on these intensified and proactive steps, CBP Agricultural Specialists intercepted nearly seven percent more plant pests in fiscal year 2008 than in fiscal year 2007, including 42 first-time plant pest interceptions at a port of entry.

The National Plant Board would like to formally recognize both CBP and USDA, APHIS, PPQ for their commitment to elevating the importance of the agricultural mission within CBP and express sincere appreciation for continued dedication in this critical area.

**Motion to Adopt: Collin Wamsley, Co-chair, NPB Resolutions/Policy
Committee, MO**
Seconded by: Harry Fulton, MS

DISTRIBUTION:

Jayson Ahern, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Thomas Winkowski, CBP Assistant Commissioner

Cindy Smith, Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Stephen Haterius, Executive Director NASDA

NPB President

Regional Plant Board Presidents