



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

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October 26, 2017

Ann Gibbs
President, National Plant Board
Animal & Plant Health Division
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Ms. Gibbs:

Thank you for your letter conveying the importance of our cooperative Asian Longhorned Beetle Program to the National Plant Board (NPB) and its members. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) appreciates ongoing NPB support for this important and successful program, which I strongly agree is an excellent example of what can be achieved through effective state-federal partnerships.

As you know, we are currently under a continuing resolution that maintains funding at last year's levels. PPQ is committed to balancing the needs of the three programs funded within the Tree and Wood Pest line item (Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth) at funding levels available in any given year, and the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program will continue to be a top priority for APHIS. We are keenly aware that program funding reductions could impact the program's overall success and eradication timelines.

PPQ will continue to look for innovative, cost saving measures like the maple-only survey protocol recently implemented by the program. We also recognize the need to continue engaging states regarding changes in program policies and protocols, and we value the creative thinking each state brings to the table as we craft the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program's future.

Through our strong partnership, I am confident that the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program will continue to result in successful eradication efforts. Please feel free to call or write to me again on this or any other topics of interest.

Sincerely,

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine