



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

Ann Gibbs, President
Division of Plant Industry
Maine Dept. of Agriculture
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
(207) 287-3891

Carol Holko, Secretary-Treasurer
Plant Protection and Weed Management
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 841-5920

2008 RESOLUTION NO. 3

USDA ARS RESEARCH IN SYSTEMATICS AND TAXONOMY

The annual cost of invasive species to the United States economy is estimated at \$138 billion a year. Many of the most serious non-native invasive species threaten our plant resources and environment. Scientific expertise, and taxonomic support and information are critical to safeguarding American agriculture.

One of the critical missions of USDA ARS is to develop research tools that assist federal and state regulatory officials with identifying agricultural plant pests. The inability of ARS to provide timely identifications to regulatory officials because of insufficient taxonomic expertise means that commodities may be quarantined, destroyed, or treated unnecessarily, adversely impacting domestic and international trade. Failure to develop and sustain research or identification services means that new emerging invasive species may go undetected and add to the invasive species burden on United States agriculture. Additionally, regulatory decisions are delayed or jeopardized without sufficient taxonomic evidence.

Resolved: That the Eastern Plant Board at its 83rd annual meeting in Charleston, WV on April 3rd, 2008 urges Congress to provide funding to ARS in the 2009 budget to adequately fund scientific expertise and taxonomic support in those areas critical to safeguarding American agriculture.

Distribution:

Ed Schafer, Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Edward Knipping, Administrator, USDA ARS
Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA APHIS PPQ
Greg Ibach, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA
Gray Haun, President, National Plant Board
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