

**Eastern Plant Board**  
**April 7, 2005**  
**Egg Harbor, New Jersey**

**Resolution 2: Emerging Plant Pests and Pest Detection**

The survey, detection and eradication or control of invasive non-indigenous plant pests and diseases will continue to challenge the abilities of USDA-APHIS and state cooperators to secure the necessary funding for the mandated safeguarding of American plant resources. Present funding at the federal level is inadequate to support existing eradication and control initiatives. Major control initiatives directed at Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, citrus canker, and *Phytophthora ramorum* blight are ongoing. All of these are funded with the Emerging Plant Pests budget line item. The funding needed to address these pests and others totals \$175,000,000. The total funding available during FY05 is only \$101,755,000. In order for eradication efforts to be successful, it is imperative that full, reliable and continuous funding be made available to the partner agencies involved in this process.

Recent increases in federal support for enhanced domestic surveillance through Homeland Security allocation and the Pest Detection Initiative have focused on infrastructure development. Expanding world trade and the threat of bio-terrorism have increased the risk of destructive insects, diseases, nematodes and weeds being introduced into the United States. Improving pest detection and response capabilities to meet the increasing challenges of new pest introductions requires adequate funding. The funding needed to accomplish this totals \$100,000,000.

**Be it Resolved**, that the Eastern Plant Board, at its 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Egg Harbor, New Jersey from April 4-7, 2005, citing the catastrophic losses to U.S. Agriculture in the billions of dollars resulting from the inability to sustain federal support and funding for existing plant pest and disease control programs and obtain new funds for the enhancement of existing systems of pest detection and intervention, urges that:

1. Congress appropriate \$175 million to fully fund USDA-APHIS-PPQ's Emerging Plant Pests line item to eliminate the need for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) emergency funding releases for these specific programs.
2. Congress increase the appropriation for the Pest Detection line item to \$100 million for the early detection of new pests and timely emergency response.

**Distribution:**

Michael Johannes, Secretary, USDA  
Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA  
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS  
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
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