

Letter from Eastern Plant Board to:

Dr. Richard, Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

April 6, 2005

RE: Funding Decisions for Biological Control Programs

Classical biological control programs have been conducted in the United States for more than 100 years in order to combat exotic pests that entered the United States without their complement of natural enemies. These programs require a considerable amount of research and field work, and often require years to implement. However, for a number of difficult pests, these programs provide a measure of long term control not possible with other pest control methods. Many pests that are suitable candidates for biological control span across a number of states and crops.

Eastern Plant Board members are on the front line of pest control considerations for new and emerging pests. At the same time, they have strong connections to land grant and other universities, and thus are well connected to ongoing biological control programs. We believe that USDA-APHIS-PPQ could benefit from the Plant Board perspective when making decisions regarding biological control program funding.

Therefore, we are requesting that USDA-APHIS-PPQ create a process for Eastern Plant Board input into funding decisions regarding which biological control programs to support. This action would have the added benefit of strengthening bonds and communication between USDA and Eastern Plant Board members.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Schulze, President
Eastern Plant Board

cc: Mr. Paul Eggert, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Dr. Jerry Fowler, Eastern Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Mr. Bill Dickerson, President, National Plant Board