



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

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July 25, 2017

Colin Wamsley
President, Central Plant Board
Missouri Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630

Dear Mr. Wamsley:

Thank you for writing me regarding our cooperative Asian Longhorned Beetle Program and the program's significance to the Central Plant Board states. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) appreciates the ongoing support of the Central Plant Board for this important program and I strongly agree that the program is an excellent example of successful state and federal partnerships.

PPQ has the responsibility of balancing the needs of the three programs funded within the Tree and Wood Pest line item (i.e. Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and Gypsy Moth). The Asian Longhorned Beetle Program is a top priority. We are keenly aware of the impacts on overall program success, eradication timelines, and potential economic impacts created by funding reductions for the program.

PPQ will continue to explore and implement innovative cost saving measures like the maple-only survey protocol mentioned in your resolution. To the extent that we can implement these measures without compromising program effectiveness, they represent the best of our collective efforts to provide the taxpayer with maximum return on investment. As the program is a collaboration between PPQ and the states, we also recognize the critical need to remain deeply engaged with the states regarding changes in program policies and protocols.

Through our strong partnership, the Asian Longhorned Beetle Program will enjoy continued success. Please feel free to continue contacting me on this or any other topic of concern.

Sincerely,

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine