



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Plant Protection and  
Quarantine

1400 Independence  
Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC  
20250

Voice: 202-799-7163  
Fax: 202-690-0472

July 13, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Wamsley:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Central Plant Board regarding the importance of communication between State and Federal partners. We certainly agree with you on the importance of our partnership and appreciate the Plant Board's commitment to strengthening and enhancing our work together. I assure you, we share that commitment.

PPQ and the Plant Board work side by side every day to safeguard the nation's agriculture and plant resources. The relationship between our State Plant Health Directors and the State Plant Regulatory Officials facilitates that effort on the ground and ensures that we are using one another's authorities and resources to carry out our shared mission effectively.

Equally important is the relationships between PPQ and the National and Regional Plant Boards. It is in this relationship that we share information, ponder issues, and develop strategies that support a national framework for safeguarding. Effective and proactive engagement at this level is of paramount importance to our mutual success.

The Interagency Relations Committee was successful in establishing new communication processes and protocols in 2008 that helped us communicate more effectively and build a level of trust that allows us to identify and resolve issues as they arise. As you indicated, we reinvigorated this Committee in 2015 and brought their work under the umbrella of the Strategic Alliance in 2016. Communication remains our number one priority under the Alliance. I am grateful for your support of the Committee's work, which I am confident will make a strong relationship even stronger.

Sincerely,

Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine