



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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91st Annual Meeting
St. Michaels, Maryland
2016

SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

The Eastern Plant Board believes the need for clear and timely communications is imperative to the development of programs and policies which further the safeguarding of agriculture in the United States. Communication is essential between federal, state, and tribal governments, and other cooperators. Risks associated with the lack of clear notifications regarding pests of concerns to states, whether they are of federal concern or not, jeopardize agricultural industries throughout the nation. The lack of communication regarding pest interceptions in a variety of trade products leaves many states unaware of interceptions that may impact their resources. Timely communication of pest introductions, and response plans is important.

WHEREAS Communication is essential for the success of a working partnership.

WHEREAS The states best understand pest issues of agricultural and forest based industries within their own borders.

WHEREAS Concurrent notification to SPHDs and SPROs of pest information and corresponding activities is critical to the Plant Board-APHIS partnership.

WHEREAS The concurrent notification to SPHDs and SPROs of the recent introduction of brown fir longhorned beetle in pine outdoor furniture did not occur in a timely fashion.

WHEREAS USDA APHIS PPQ and NPB members have agreed to work together to utilize our federal and state authorities, assets and expertise to safeguard plant health and enable safe trade, as described in the Strategic Alliance Document of November, 2014.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Eastern Plant Board at its 91st annual meeting in St. Michaels, Maryland on April 7, 2016, that APHIS commit to:

- Clear and timely communication with SPROs and SPHDs regarding identification of pest concerns which may enter their state; and
- Promoting the Strategic Alliance Document to work together and utilize federal and state authorities, assets and expertise to safeguard plant health and enable safe trade; and
- Assisting new and/or temporary program managers to master a clear understanding of the importance of states' working knowledge of pest threats for the industries of agriculture and forestry within their states.

Distribution:

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