

# EASTERN PLANT BOARD

Christopher Logue, President  
New York Department of  
Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235  
(518) 457-2087

Piera Siegert, President-Elect  
New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271-2561

Gary Fish, Treasurer  
Maine Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation and Forestry  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-7545

93rd Annual Meeting  
Mystic, Connecticut  
2018

Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
APHIS PPQ  
Washington DC

June, 2018

Dear Mr. El-Lissy,

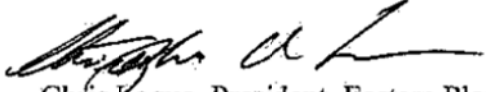
Thank you for your agency's continued support for monitoring, suppression and eradication of invasive pests such as recent Eastern Plant Board Region issues - Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) and European Cherry Fruit Fly (ECFF). Response to newly introduced invasive pests is becoming increasingly complex requiring direct coordination of state and federal efforts and potential development of new tools and approaches. State and federal partners need to be aware and considerate of one another's priorities, abilities, limitations, and timelines in order to affect a robust response to introduced threats. The Eastern Plant Board would like to continue to work with APHIS PPQ to ensure coordinated responses to pests as well as to engage in development of novel strategies for detecting and suppressing these pests.

The invasive pest issues that we address are becoming more complicated. There are pest interactions with invasive plants that can help or hinder control efforts. SLF's interaction with *Ailanthus* may be of benefit when monitoring for this pest. *Ailanthus* has also been implicated as a preferred host for the brown marmorated stink bug. With ECFF, however, the interaction with several types of invasive honeysuckle that are prevalent throughout the Northeast may render conventional fruit fly eradication practices ineffective. State and federal partners should work together to find creative opportunities to leverage invasive plant programs in detection and eradication programs for invasive pests.

Additionally, there are complicated trade implications related to the establishment of these pests in the United States. Presence of pests such as ECFF and SLF in states with diverse agricultural industries, invested heavily in high-value specialty crops can result in regulatory approaches that can have devastating economic impacts on individual producers. The complexity of these and future pests highlight the need for increased dialogue. Our mutual goals for addressing invasive pests will have the greatest success when state and federal agencies and the impacted industry are able to understand each other's goals, resources, and limitations. In partnership with USDA APHIS PPQ we need to develop tools and predictive models to help us deploy resources quickly and to the greatest benefit to our citizens and agricultural industry.

**We respectfully request that Science and Technology work on development of decision making tools that can assist with evaluating new pest threats and how best to address them while still recognizing that partners have varying priorities, goals, resources, and limitations. We also would like to encourage further dialog between PPQ Policy and the states to develop approaches to new pests that consider the complexity, economics, resources available and potential trade issues associated with a new pest infestation.** Dialog on these issues should begin and continue in earnest. We continue to experience new pest introductions and often lack the tools and scientific data to make rapid, informed decisions. **We also request that federal funding is allocated in a way that allows states sufficient time to hire positions, and procure supplies.**

In closing - thank you for your continued support of our plant health programs and for the valuable technical and policy assistance that you offer. As we continue to explore and understand the varying perspectives of our agencies we can develop better decision making tools to allocate our limited state and federal resources in the most beneficial manner.



Chris Logue, President, Eastern Plant Board

**Distribution:**

Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Matt Royer, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Alan Dowdy, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Ron Sequeira, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Matt Rhoads, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Paula Henstridge, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
John Bowers, National Policy Manager, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Feridoon Mehdizadegan, National Operations Manager, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
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