



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Kansas · Michigan

Minnesota · Missouri · Nebraska · North Dakota

Ohio · South Dakota · Wisconsin

October 17, 2012

Dr. Rob Mangold
US Forest Service,
Director, Forest Health Protection
RPC-7
1601 N Kent Street
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Dr. Mangold,

At the Central Plant Board (CPB) meeting in Traverse City, Michigan, June 4-7, 2012, we discussed the national response effort to Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut (TCD). We greatly appreciate the leadership role that the U.S. Forest Service has taken with the development of the National Response Framework for Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut, funding of research for lure development and mitigation treatments, as well as development of a national website and other outreach efforts.

Since this is a pest complex that is apparently native to the United States, there is currently no one federal agency with clear leadership authority. The Central Plant Board urges the U.S. Forest Service to continue the TCD Technical Working Group with the function of providing national guidance for research, survey, management, outreach, and technical guidance for regulatory efforts. This group should continue to have representation from the U.S. Forest Service, USDA APHIS PPQ, the National Plant Board, National Association of State Foresters, National Plant Diagnostic Network, Land Grant Universities, and other entities with technical expertise. The continuation of this group will encourage continued collaboration among stakeholders and provide guidance for the efficient use of limited available funding.

Given the tremendous value of black walnut to the U.S. forest products and agriculture industries and the susceptibility of this resource to TCD, a national, multi-agency, focused response must be maintained and strengthened. The current level of federal resources available for a TCD response is not equal to the significance of the threat. The Central Plant Board hopes to work

with our federal partners to maintain a strong level of awareness of TCD among our many stakeholders, and to ensure that an adequate response to this pest complex is implemented.

Sincerely,



Philip Marshall, President
Central Plant Board

cc: Rebecca Bech, USDA APHIS PPQ
Ian MacFarlane, NAASF Executive Director
Bruce D. Moltzan, USDA Forest Service
Mike Cooper, National Plant Board President
Vicki Smith, Eastern Plant Board President
Christel Harden, Southern Plant Board President
Donna Rise, Western Plant Board President