August 9, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Wamsley:

Thank you for writing to me about the Central Plant Board’s concerns regarding Plant
Protection and Quarantine’s (PPQ) National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey
(CAPS) Program meeting. PPQ would like to thank the Central Plant Board and all the
member states for the continued support of the CAPS Program. The CAPS Program is a
model of the collaborative effort between PPQ and the states for the surveillance and early
detection of pests of regulatory significance.

We acknowledge the desire of the Central Plant Board to hold a regular National CAPS
Program meeting. PPQ also recognizes the importance and benefits of the CAPS Program.
The meetings provide workshops, trainings, and networking opportunities that enhance
operational efficiencies and coordination for early pest detection survey activities. The
meetings are also valuable for improving coordination and building stronger working
relationships among PPQ and its collaborators.

PPQ commits to actively investigate opportunities to support a National CAPS Meeting in
the near future. We welcome further discussions with the Central Plant Board, and the
National Plant Board as a whole, to explore creative approaches that will bring the CAPS
Program community together to discuss current issues and topics of mutual interest and to
develop strategies that will continue the CAPS Program’s success. PPQ also
acknowledges the need for advanced commitment to the meeting, so that the states can
plan for attendance and travel expenses in their pest detection cooperative agreements.

We greatly appreciate the Central Plant Board’s collaboration and support for the CAPS
Program. Our joint efforts will continue to develop the CAPS Program into a very
successful and nationally recognized program for early pest detection and surveillance
activities. Please feel free to call or write me again on this or any other topic of concern.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine