



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

1400 Independence, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

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

Mr. Joe Collins
President, National Plant Board
Department of Entomology
S-225 Ag. Science Center North
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

JAN - 4 2016

Dear Mr. Collins:

Subject: Proposed Deregulation of Pine Shoot Beetle (*T. piniperda*)

Thank you for your recent letter in support of the deregulation of pine shoot beetle (PSB). PPQ plans to begin the regulatory process to propose deregulation of PSB. As we pursue this action, we will consider the comments you provided from Missouri and Montana. In addition, we will provide all stakeholders and the public the opportunity to comment through our rulemaking process. We will evaluate all comments to determine whether we will change the regulatory status of PSB.

We appreciate the National Plant Board's continued support of the Strategic Alliance Working Group on Regulatory Program Evaluation. If you have further questions about PSB, please call our new National PSB Policy Manager Bill Wesela at 301-851-2229.

Sincerely,

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

pm/kaz