



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

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Mr. Joe Collins
President, National Plant Board
Department of Entomology
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Lexington, KY 40546-0091

NOV 17 2015

Dear Joe:

Subject: NPB-PPQ Strategic Alliance

Thank you for expressing the National Plant Board's support of the strategic alliance initiative. I could not agree with you more about the importance and value of the work we are doing on the four priorities under the strategic alliance. The strategic alliance creates an opportunity for deeper dialog about issues of mutual importance in our shared goal of safeguarding agriculture and natural resources and facilitating safe trade. The framework we have collaboratively developed for the strategic alliance will serve us well into the future, for it provides a deliberative and thoughtful way to identify and address topics of strategic importance. It will continue to allow us to bring together the best expertise, perspectives, authorities, and resources of each of our organizations, as we seek effective solutions to these issues.

I am equally pleased at the progress we have made on the four priorities we identified in 2014. Through the efforts of the strategic alliance working groups, we have:

- established an objective process to evaluate existing and new regulatory programs and conducted an initial evaluation of pine shoot beetle as a pilot;
- developed and begun piloting tools to facilitate dialog and planning at the local level around compliance and enforcement;
- identified ways to align federal and state budget cycles to support better cash-flow of cooperative programs and piloted the use of bundled cooperative agreements in two states; and
- conducted an initial evaluation of PPQ training that may be suitable for state participation.

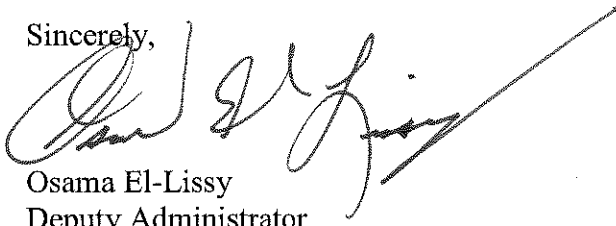
PPQ looks forward to bringing the four priorities identified in 2014 to conclusion. We are committed to the strategic alliance and to its annual evaluation so we can maintain effective collaboration on issues of mutual concern. I am confident that we will tackle

Mr. Joe Collins

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future priorities with the same energy and results-driven focus with which we have made such significant progress on the priorities we identified in 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Osama El-Lissy', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

oda/lek