



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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2012 Annual Meeting
Burlington, Vermont

ONGOING PEST ADVISORY GROUP (OPAG)

WHEREAS the Eastern Plant Board is aware that USDA has sustained significant budget cuts since 2010, greatly reducing the flexibility of APHIS-PPQ to assist the states in addressing pests of federal regulatory concern.

WHEREAS states have been experiencing similar economic impacts over the same period of time.

WHEREAS APHIS is necessarily looking at restructuring programs and realigning regulatory authorities to reflect new federal budget realities.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Eastern Plant Board at its 87th annual meeting in Burlington Vermont on Thursday, April 19, 2012, that we encourage and support the concept of the Ongoing Pest Advisory Group (OPAG) to provide a transparent, inclusive process for reviewing and transitioning existing pest programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we respectfully ask that APHIS involve the National Plant Board in the OPAG process to provide state perspective on economic, environmental, and cultural implications of transitioning programs.

Distribution:

Rebecca Bech, USDA APHIS PPQ
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