



Southern Plant Board

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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD MEETING *April 19-22, 2009* *Greenville, South Carolina*

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 **NATIONAL FIREWOOD POLICY**

Following detection in Michigan in 2002, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has now spread and now infests portions of ten states. These infestations have resulted in the death of millions of ash trees in forests and urban areas. Much of the spread of this pest has been attributed to human activities, specifically, the inappropriate movement of firewood.

While state and federal quarantines have provided limited protection relative to the movement of firewood from regulated areas, detections of this pest outside the quarantine areas continue. Given these detections, resource managers and others continue to press for a comprehensive approach to effectively managing movement of firewood. Current firewood usage patterns and supply chains continue to contribute not only to the spread of EAB, but other insects and diseases such as *Phytophthora ramorum*, oak wilt, redbay ambrosia beetle and its associated fungus, Asian longhorned beetle, and sirenix woodwasp.

RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Greenville, South Carolina on April 22, 2009 that USDA, APHIS, PPQ work collaboratively with its' resource partners including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Plant Board, the National Park Service, the National Association of State Foresters, The Nature Conservancy, and others to develop a comprehensive national firewood policy that clearly addresses insect and disease spread concerns. This policy should consider all effective means to improve the understanding of forest pest threats and management, change public behavior and protect forest resources. Potential responses should include education, regulation, cooperation, and use of incentives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USDA and its resource partners implement the components of this new national policy as soon as possible. Given the urgency of this issue, the Southern Plant Board pledges full support and cooperation for this policy development and implementation.

Motion to adopt: Sancho Dickinson, OK
Seconded by: Harry Fulton, MS

Distribution:

Cindy Smith, Acting Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Rob Mangold, Director, Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Service
Jay Farrell, Executive Director, NASF
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