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WESTERN PLANT BOARD

90th Annual Meeting

May 5 – 7, 2009

RESOLUTION No. 3

FEDERAL FOREIGN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, Federal foreign import restrictions that protect agriculture, the environment, and the economy of the U.S. against harm from alien invasive species are authorized under the Plant Protection Act. Consistent with this authority and the special risks associated with certain crops and crop production regions, the USDA has prohibited the entry of commodities such as avocados and citrus within states and regions where pest establishment potential is high.

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits or restricts activities that could harm species listed as threatened or endangered. The USDA must comply with the prohibitions and restrictions in its activities and programs.

WHEREAS, States with year-around mild climates and diverse habitats are uniquely vulnerable to new pest establishment. New pest introductions can threaten endemic flora and fauna and are a major cause of native species decline in sensitive habitats. International standards for risk assessment recognize environmental sensitivity as a factor in determining an acceptable level of risk associated with the proposed import of a commodity.

WHEREAS, Like USDA, States impose quarantines to protect their agriculture, environment and economy. State plant quarantines target high risk commodities. Quarantine restrictions and post-entry requirements are a result of pest interception records. Under international standards relative to regulated non-quarantine pests, the USDA as the National Plant Protection Organization for the United States may recognize state and other sub-national requirements. Furthermore, states have suffered major agricultural, environmental and economic losses due to invasive species introductions, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Western Plant Board at its May 5 – 7, 2009 Annual meeting in Boise, Idaho, urges the USDA, APHIS, PPQ to include state phytosanitary prohibitions and restrictions in its federal foreign import requirements.

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