

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
On Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food & Drug Administration and Related  
Agencies

The Honorable Sam Farr  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
On Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food & Drug Administration and Related  
Agencies

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies

The Honorable Jim Moran  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies

Dear Chairmen Calvert and Aderholt and Ranking Members Moran and Farr:

As your subcommittees work to craft their respective appropriations bills for fiscal year 2015, we would like to draw your attention to an issue in need of federal assistance to contain and eradicate the infestation of an invasive species, the emerald ash borer. As you may know, counties in more than twenty states continue to confirm the existence and spread of this invasive beetle, which is destroying ash trees across our nation.

First identified in Michigan in 2002, this beetle has spread to 22 states, resulting in federal quarantines of six entire states and a growing number of partial quarantines. To maintain safety on public and private land our communities are left with no option but to remove these trees, costing each state billions of dollars. For example, the state of Iowa is home to more than 3 million ash trees, each of which cost roughly \$1,000 for removal and disposal.

Because this invasive species has continued to spread each year, this matter should be prioritized and efforts should be targeted to address the damage caused by the emerald ash borer. A failure to do so will undoubtedly result in this costly problem spreading to additional areas, and an even greater demand for financial resources in the future.

To help our communities address the containment of the emerald ash borer and its eradication, we ask that you provide the office of Animal and Plant Inspection Services at the US Department of Agriculture with an additional \$37 million to research and determine a biological control to mitigate further spread. As well, we ask that you increase funding for two State and Private Forestry grant programs at the US Forestry Service. Specifically, we ask that funds for the Forest Health Management Cooperative Land program be increased by \$15 million to help communities address emerald ash borer infestations; and an additional \$5 million be provided to

the Urban and Community Forestry program to increase grants available for combating the emerald ash borer infestation and "re-greening" efforts as communities diversify their tree populations and replenish shade where ash trees have been lost.

We appreciate your attention to our request. Please feel free to contact us if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bruce Balay

Ann M. Fane-Kuster

Dan Maffei

Bill Owen

Dr. Bishka

Ron King

Carol Shea-Power

Dave Lebeck

Matthew A. Cottrell

[Signature]

Linda Perry

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