

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 10, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and  
Related Agencies  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and  
Related Agencies  
1001 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,

We are writing to respectfully request the Subcommittee provide \$48 million in the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill for the Asian Long-Horned Beetle Eradication program of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Federal support is essential to eradicate these pests and prevent their spread throughout the nation.

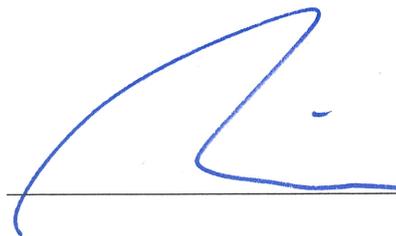
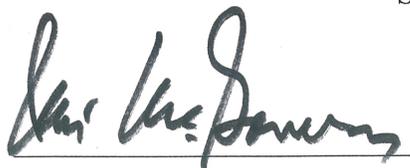
Last year, an ALB infestation was discovered in the city of Worcester, Massachusetts. The insect had previously been found in New York, Illinois, and New Jersey, and this was the first time it was detected in New England. The spread of the infestation is clearly a serious danger to the hardwood forests of the Northeast and the Midwest, and immediate action is needed. In Vermont, for example, the maple syrup industry accounts for \$200 million of the state's economy each year. An outbreak of ALB would put at great risk these hardwood trees and the state's economy.

The Nature Conservancy estimates that 48 million acres of forests from New England to the Great Lakes are at risk of ALB infestation, and that a national outbreak could kill 30 percent of trees in the United States. A strong federal response will help to prevent such disaster to the nation's forests and timber industry.

We commend the Committee for its past support of the ALB eradication program, and we urge you to provide the requested funding for this important program in the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

With respect and appreciation, and thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Michael McMahon

Scott Murphy

John Hall

Pat McKe

Dan Mofferi

Richard E. Neal

~~Gregory W. Weeks~~

Conrad B. Mahoney

Brian Delalant

Stephen

Edward J. ...

Michael C. Caputo

Niki Tsongas

Edward J. Markey

Barry ...

Jerrold Nadler

Eliot L. Engel

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John F. Tierney  
Yvette D. Clarke

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The Honorable James P. McGovern

The Honorable Anthony Weiner

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The Honorable Michael E.  
McMahon  
The Honorable Scott Murphy  
The Honorable John Hall  
The Honorable Peter Welch  
The Honorable Daniel B. Maffei  
The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks  
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
The Honorable William D. Delahunt

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
The Honorable Eric J. Massa  
The Honorable Michael E. Capuano  
The Honorable Niki Tsongas  
The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
The Honorable Barney Frank  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
The Honorable Joseph Crowley  
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel

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The Honorable John F. Tierney  
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke