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June 16, 2012

Diane L. Schuble
National Coordinator for Official Control –
The Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary Program
USDA APHIS PPQ
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dear Ms. Schuble:

The National Plant Board has reviewed the proposal put forth by your agency to change the status of the following plant pests currently regulated in foreign trade to non-actionable at ports of entry:

- *Acutaspis albopicta*, albopicta scale
- *Chaetanaphothrips signipennis*, banana thrips
- *Dendrothripoides innoxius*, sweet potato thrips
- *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*, gray pineapple mealybug
- *Hylurgus ligniperda*, red-haired pine bark beetle
- *Metamasius callizona*, Mexican bromeliad weevil
- *Myllocerus undecimpustulatus undatus*, Asian grey weevil
- *Pheidole megacephala*, bigheaded ant
- *Siphoninus phyllyreae*, ash whitefly
- *Thrips florum*, banana flower thrips

Based on responses received from our members the National Plant Board concurs with those recommendations.

However, we did have some comments from the Eastern and Western Plant Boards. Their comments follow.

Eastern Plant Board – Responses came from CT, NH, MD, PA and WV.

- PA would like *Pheidole megacephala* and *Myllocerus undecimpustulatus undatus* to be reportable.

Western Plant Board – Responses came from MT, AK, and AZ

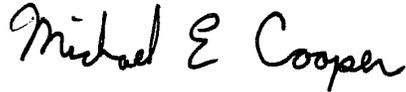
- MT opposes the delisting of *Hylurgus ligniperda*. And Montana has a possible concern with *Myllocerus undecimpustulatus undatus*. The concern is based on the possible issue of this beetle vectoring *L. wagneri*.
- AK opposes the delisting of *Hylurgus ligniperda*. This is a quarantine pest of China and Alaska has a current issue with China and this pest.
- AZ opposes the delisting of *Hylurgus ligniperda*. Arizona has concerns with *Myllocerus undecimpustulatus undatus* and do not recommend deregulation. They also appear to be concerned with *Pheidole megacephala*.

D. Schuble
June 16, 2012
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It is suggested that additional discussion be held with the State Plant Regulatory Officials of Pennsylvania, Montana, Alaska and Arizona.

The National Plant Board looks forward to continued close cooperation with USDA APHIS PPQ to improve the safeguarding of the agricultural and horticultural resources of other states, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the potential de-regulation of plant pests of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "C".

Michael E. Cooper, President
National Plant Board

cc: Alan Dowdy, USDA APHIS PPQ
Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary