

NATIONAL PLANT BOARD

August 22, 2007

Honolulu, Hawaii

RESOLUTION No. 2

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MITIGATION OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE MOVEMENT OF FIREWOOD**

The introduction and movement of invasive and exotic forest pests is often accelerated and assisted by human activities. State and federal agencies have implemented regulatory strategies to address a number of known pest pathways such as commercial log and nursery stock movement. Firewood, however, is a pathway that is outside of normal regulatory restrictions and is moved largely by private individuals with little or no knowledge about quarantine or regulatory restrictions. Firewood has great potential to introduce highly destructive forest pests such as gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorned beetle into new uninfested susceptible locations. States which may be impacted by these introductions have little or no ability or authority to inform or interact with interstate travelers or tourists.

RESOLVED, by the membership of the National Plant Board at its 81st annual meeting in Honolulu, HI on August 22, 2007, that USDA, APHIS and USDA Forest Service develop, in cooperation with the National Plant Board and the National Association of State Foresters, a national education and outreach program with a clear national message that is consistent and uniform across state lines. The goal of the program is informing interstate tourists and travelers that firewood has the potential to introduce dangerous and damaging plant pests and as such should not be carried for long distances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USDA develop and approve criteria/processes that would mitigate the movement of pests in firewood. Processes would include heat treatment methods for firewood along with other methods that could be adopted by the commercial firewood industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USDA, APHIS should immediately start the process to federally regulate the interstate movement of firewood as a commodity.

Motion to adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, Resolutions/Policy Committee

Seconded by: Harry Fulton

Distribution:

Cindy Smith, Administrator, USDA, APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Dr. Rob Mangold, Forest Service, Chief Forest Health

E. Austin Short III, National Association of State Foresters

Kirk Rowdabaugh, National Association of State Foresters

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary, US Dept. of Interior
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA
Bob Ehart, NASDA
Frank Lowenstein, The Nature Conservancy
Gray Haun, President, National Plant Board
Regional Plant Board Presidents