



December 21, 2015

Dr. Barry B. Bai
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532

and James Marra
Washington Department of Agriculture
PO Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Dr. Bai and Mr. Marra:

The Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters strongly supports your efforts and that of USDA APHIS PPQ to rapidly respond to the recent detections of Asian gypsy moth in the states of Oregon and Washington. Eradication of this destructive invasive forest pest is necessary to protect the forests of North America.

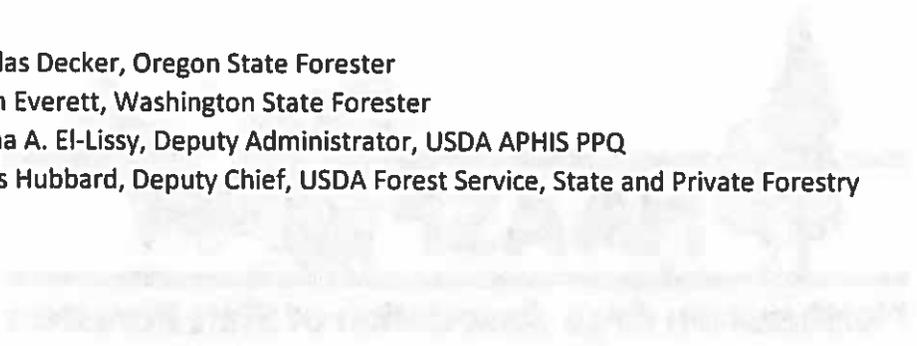
As you are aware, the Northeastern Area of the United States has been dealing with gypsy moth since 1869, and the North American strain of gypsy moth still causes extensive damage and tree mortality in the generally infested area and continues to spread to un-infested areas as only one-third of the potential host type is currently infested. Over 1 million acres were defoliated by the gypsy moth in 2015 and we expect even more damage in 2016. In Pennsylvania, we plan to treat over 124,000 acres this coming spring. The Asian gypsy moth feeds on a wider host range and the adult female moths can fly, unlike the North American gypsy moth adult females, greatly increasing the risk of rapid spread if the Asian gypsy moth were to become established. Past eradication efforts have proven very successful, and an aggressive and rapid response to treat the 10,500 acres in Washington and 8,641 acres in Oregon is critical to prevent establishment in North America.

I understand that both the National Gypsy Moth Management Board and the Aerial Application Safety Council have offered technical support to you and your staff. In addition, please feel free to contact our staff here in Pennsylvania or other states that have expertise in aerial application programs. A safe aerial application program is always the top priority, and we are able and willing to offer you our support. Good luck with your programs in 2016.

Sincerely,

Daniel Devlin
Pennsylvania State Forester
Chair, Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

Cc: Douglas Decker, Oregon State Forester
Aaron Everett, Washington State Forester
Osama A. El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator, USDA APHIS PPQ
James Hubbard, Deputy Chief, USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry



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Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service