

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2008

Secretary A.G. Kawamura
California Department of Food and
Agriculture
1220 N St, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Administrator Cindy Smith
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Services
1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 312-E
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Kawamura and Administrator Smith:

We commend the State of California and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for addressing the infestation of Light Brown Apple Moths (LBAM) in Northern California, and we wish to share our concerns and recommendations regarding the eradication program.

The presence of LBAM was first confirmed in California in February 2007, and since then thousands of moths have been detected from Monterey to Marin County. This invasive species threatens more than 2,000 different host plants, including major California crops like stone fruits, citrus fruits, and grapes. Of equal concern, if California fails to eradicate the moths, USDA and international trade partners will be forced to put in place trade restrictions that would stop the flow of California's agricultural goods, which feed the country and the world. By acting early, we maximize our ability to eliminate this threat and minimize the amount of pheromone pesticides required for full eradication.

With this in mind, we understand the necessity of the joint effort by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to carry out an integrated eradication program. The program, recommended by a Technical Working Group composed of LBAM experts from around the world, combines a number of eradication techniques including natural parasites, local ground treatments of insecticides Spinosad or *Bt*, and broad application of mating-disruptive pheromones. While we recognize the pressing need to carry out an integrated eradication program, the aerial application of pheromones for mating disruption raises concerns about public notification regarding spraying schedules, potential immediate health effects, and the long-term effects of exposure to the spray.

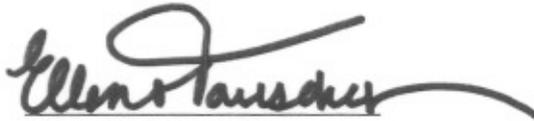
As part of the public notification program, we ask that you ensure our constituents are made fully aware of the spraying schedule and the effects weather may have on scheduled sprays. When weather conditions necessitate changes to the spraying schedule, we ask that you supplement the LBAM website (at www.cdfa.ca.gov) and hotline (1-800-491-1899) by working with local press, local and state officials, and our congressional offices to ensure that new information is widely and actively disseminated. In addition, we request that you designate an official point of contact for constituents who have health concerns related to the spray and who may require a referral for appropriate medical advice or attention.

Finally, we appreciate the thorough human toxicity risk assessment that USDA and CDFa have undertaken, and look forward to the opportunity to review these results as soon as they are available. Should these tests link any health risk to the spray, we expect the current

moratorium on aerial treatments to remain in place and for the eradication plan to be reevaluated. Should the spraying continue, we believe that a plan to monitor long-term effects of exposure must be initiated. We request that a point of contact for constituents with spray-related health concerns be maintained beyond the period of spraying.

Once again, we strongly urge the State of California and USDA to continue to address the concerns of our constituencies. We believe that by maintaining a strong line of communication with Northern Californians and by providing resources to address their concerns, the integrated eradication program will be a success.

Sincerely,



Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



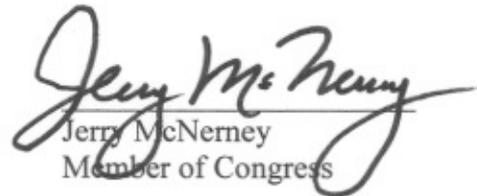
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer