

Act Now! Important Issue for Natural Areas!

WHAT THE HECK IS “Q-37” AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

***Prevention is Key! Keep Out
Invasive Plants! Strengthen
Screening of Plant Imports!***

**THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON
RISKY PLANT IMPORTS**

USDA is proposing stronger “Q-37” guidelines. Some will fight it. Let USDA know that preventing the introduction of invasive plants is critically important for protecting ecosystems and resources.

**★ Write Secretary of Agriculture Tom ★
Vilsack, and submit a comment online!**

Sample letter on back. Comment period ends October 21, 2009!

**BACKGROUND, INSTRUCTIONS & LINKS AT
CAL-IPC.ORG**

Submitting a comment online

1. Go to www.regulations.gov
2. In the search box, type “NAPPRA” (stands for “not authorized pending pest risk assessment”, the new category being proposed by USDA)
3. Below you can click to read the Proposed Rules and to submit a comment.

Formal comments submitted by Oct. 21 will be part of the public record. A simple statement from your perspective on the importance of preventing invasive plant introductions will help support stronger screening. From this page you can access two official background documents, and if you click to view the “docket” you can also see all other public comments to date.

Sending a letter to decision-makers

1. Customize the sample letter on the following page.
2. Print the letter on your organization’s letterhead.
3. Fax to: Sec. of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at 202-7206314

Cindy Smith, Administrator, USDA APHIS at 202-720-3054

Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA APHIS PPQ

at 202-690-0472

4. Consider also faxing to your congressional representatives. The list attached here notes key leaders on agriculture and natural resources.

Thank you for making your voice heard on this important issue!

[Note: this letter is available as a MS Word file at www.cal-ipc.org/policy/federal/Q37.php.]

<<date>>

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Strengthening APHIS Q-37 screening of plant imports to prevent introduction of invasive species

Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of <<organization>> I am writing to support stronger screening of plant imports to prevent introduction of invasive plants to the U.S. Here in <<your geographic jurisdiction>> we spend significant resources controlling invasive plants such as <<list your worst weeds>>.

Such plants greatly degrade wildlife habitat, while also damaging ecosystem services like flood and fire protection, water supply, and outdoor recreation. In addition, many diminish crop, range and forest productivity. Some exacerbate public health issues. These invasive plants threaten our country's natural resources and future security.

The top pathway for introduction of invasive plants from abroad remains purposeful importation, mostly for horticultural use. Agencies at the local, state and federal level expend millions of dollars each year to control invasive plants, yet more plant species are introduced every day with very little regulatory oversight. Other nations, most notably Australia, have adopted a more conservative approach based on straightforward screening analyses developed to protect the environment without unduly limiting trade. It is long past time for the U.S.D.A. to implement such a screening system. This will require dedicated staff resources, but investing in these resources is essential for protecting the country's natural heritage.

APHIS recently published draft guidelines for revising the "Q-37" protocol, presenting a unique opportunity to establish a screening system that will protect the country from future introductions of invasive plants. Creating the "not authorized pending pest risk assessment" (NAPPRA) category is an important and useful step, and should be implemented promptly. We appreciate your leadership in achieving this critical step. As an organization working to stop invasive plants, we urge you to make Q-37 reform a top priority for immediate action.

Sincerely,

<<your name, title, contact info>>

cc: Cindy Smith, Administrator, USDA APHIS
Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA APHIS PPQ

Key Ag & Resources Reps by State with Fax Numbers (all 202 area code)

AK Rep. Don Young	225-0425	MN Rep. Collin Peterson	225-1593	TX Sen. John Cornyn	228-2856
AL Rep. Bobby Bright	225-8913	MN Rep. Tim Walz	225-3433	UT Rep. Jason Chaffetz	225-5629
AL Rep. Mike Rogers	226-8485	MN Sen. Amy Klobuchar	228-2186	UT Rep. Rob Bishop	225-5857
AR Sen. Blanche Lincoln	228-1371	MO Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer	225-5712	UT Sen. Bob Bennett	228-1168
AR Sen. Mark Pryor	228-0908	MO Rep. Jo Ann Emerson	226-0326	VA Rep. Bob Goodlatte	225-9681
AS Rep. Eni Faleomavaega	225-8757	MO Rep. Sam Graves	225-8221	VA Rep. Rob Wittman	225-4382
AZ Rep. Jeff Flake	226-4386	MO Sen. Kit Bond	224-8149	VI Rep. Donna Christensen	225-5517
AZ Rep. Raul Grijalva	225-1541	MP Rep. Gregorio C. Sablan	226-4249	VT Sen. Patrick Leahy	224-3479
CA Rep. Dennis Cardoza	225-0819	MS Rep. Travis W. Childers	225-3549	VT Sen. Bernie Sanders	228-0776
CA Rep. Elton Gallegly	225-1100	MS Sen. Thad Cochran	224-9450	WA Rep. Cathy M. Rodgers	225-3392
CA Rep. George Miller	225-5609	MT Sen. Max Baucus	224-9412	WA Rep. Doc Hastings	225-3251
CA Rep. Grace Napolitano	225-0027	NC Rep. Larry Kissell	225-4036	WA Rep. Jay Inslee	226-1606
CA Rep. Jim Costa	225-9308	NC Rep. Mike McIntyre	225-5773	WI Rep. Ron Kind	225-5739
CA Rep. Joe Baca	225-8671	ND Rep. Earl Pomeroy	226-0893	WI Rep. Steve Kagen	225-5729
CA Rep. Lois Capps	225-5632	ND Sen. Byron Dorgan	224-1193	WI Sen. Herb Kohl	224-9787
CA Rep. Sam Farr	225-6791	ND Sen. Kent Conrad	224-7776	WV Rep. Nick Rahall	225-9061
CA Rep. Tom McClintock	225-5444	NE Rep. Adrian Smith	225-0207	WY Rep. Cynthia Lummis	225-3057
CA Sen. Dianne Feinstein	228-3954	NE Rep. Jeff Fortenberry	225-5686	WY Sen. John Barrasso	224-1724
CA Sen. Barbara Boxer	224-0454	NE Sen. Ben Nelson	228-0012		
CO Rep. Betsy Markey	225-5870	NE Sen. Mike Johanns	228-0436		
CO Rep. Diana DeGette	225-5657	NH Rep. Carol Shea-Porter	225-5822		
CO Rep. Doug Lamborn	226-2638	NJ Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.	225-9665		
CO Rep. Mike Coffman	226-4623	NJ Rep. Rush Holt	225-6025		
CO Sen. Michael Bennet	228-5036	NJ Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg	228-4054		
CT Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro	225-4890	NM Rep. Martin Heinrich	225-4975		
DE Sen. Tom Carper	228-2190	NM Sen. Tom Udall	228-3261		
FL Rep. Allen Boyd	225-5615	NY Rep. Eric Massa	226-6599		
GA Rep. David Scott	225-4628	NY Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey	226-0774		
GA Rep. Jack Kingston	226-2269	NY Rep. Scott Murphy	225-1168		
GA Rep. Jim Marshall	225-3013	NY Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand	228-0282		
GA Rep. Paul C. Broun	226-0776	NY Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand	228-0282		
GA Rep. Sanford Bishop, Jr.	225-2203	OH Rep. Bob Latta	225-1985		
GA Sen. Saxby Chambliss	224-0103	OH Rep. Jean Schmidt	225-1992		
GU Rep. Madeleine Bordallo	226-0341	OH Rep. John A. Boccieri	225-3059		
HI Rep. Neil Abercrombie	225-4580	OH Rep. Marcy Kaptur	225-7711		
IA Rep. Leonard L. Boswell	225-5608	OH Sen. Sherrod Brown	228-6321		
IA Rep. Steve King	225-3193	OH Sen. George V. Voinovich	228-1382		
IA Rep. Tom Latham	225-3301	OK Rep. Dan Boren	225-3038		
IA Sen. Chuck Grassley	224-6020	OK Rep. Frank Lucas	225-8698		
IA Sen. Tom Harkin	224-9369	OK Sen. James M. Inhofe	228-0380		
ID Rep. Walter C. Minnick	225-3029	OR Rep. Kurt Schrader	225-5699		
ID Sen. Mike Crapo	228-1375	OR Rep. Peter DeFazio	225-0032		
IL Rep. Debbie Halvorson	225-3521	OR Sen. Jeff Merkley	228-3997		
IL Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.	225-0899	PA Rep. Bill Shuster	225-2486		
IL Rep. Timothy V. Johnson	226-0791	PA Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper	225-3103		
IL Sen. Dick Durbin	228-0400	PA Rep. Tim Holden	226-0996		
IN Rep. Brad Ellsworth	225-3284	PA Sen. Arlen Specter	228-1229		
IN Sen. Richard G. Lugar	228-0360	PA Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr.	228-0604		
KS Rep. Jerry Moran	225-5124	PA Sen. Arlen Specter	228-1229		
KS Sen. Pat Roberts	224-3514	PA Rep. Glenn Thompson	225-5796		
KS Sen. Sam Brownback	228-1265	PR Rep. Pedro Pierluisi	225-2154		
KY Sen. Mitch McConnell	224-2499	RI Sen. Jack Reed	224-4680		
LA Rep. Bill Cassidy	225-7313	RI Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse	228-6362		
LA Rep. John Fleming	225-8039	SC Rep. Henry E. Brown, Jr.	225-3407		
LA Rep. Rodney Alexander	225-5639	SD Rep. Stephanie H. Sandlin	225-5823		
LA Sen. David Vitter	228-5061	SD Sen. John Thune	228-5429		
MA Rep. Ed Markey	226-0092	SD Sen. Tim Johnson	228-5765		
MA Rep. Niki Tsongas	226-0771	TN Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr.	225-6440		
MD Rep. Frank Kratovil, Jr.	225-0254	TN Rep. Lincoln Davis	226-5172		
MD Rep. John Sarbanes	225-9219	TN Rep. Phil Roe	225-5714		
MD Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin	224-1651	TN Sen. Lamar Alexander	228-3398		
ME Sen. Susan Collins	224-2693	TX Rep. Henry Cuellar	225-1641		
MI Rep. Dale E. Kildee	225-6393	TX Rep. Louie Gohmert	226-1230		
MI Rep. Mark Schauer	225-6281	TX Rep. Mike Conaway	225-1783		
MI Sen. Debbie Stabenow	228-0325	TX Rep. Randy Neugebauer	225-9615		

