THE USDA ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE AND INVASIVE SPECIES REVOLVING LOAN FUND

WHEREAS, trees are an integral part of urban infrastructure, as critical to the health and livability of communities as roads, sewers, and buildings; and

WHEREAS, forestry and related industries provide employment for over 1.6 million people, contributing $231.5 billion to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, the emerald ash borer threatens sixteen species of ash and puts at risk a $25 billion timber industry in the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, the Asian longhorned beetle threatens hardwood forests and $600 billion in street trees across the nation; and,

WHEREAS, the sudden oak death pathogen threatens common ornamentals and has already disrupted interstate trade, causing unknown economic losses, and certain to cause increasing damage to the nursery industry; and,

WHEREAS, the *Sirex* woodwasp threatens $1.9 billion in pine timber resources of the northeast and southeast; and

WHEREAS, the USDA- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is implementing quarantine and control strategies in areas affected by these serious pests; and,

WHEREAS, the USDA-APHIS Emerging Plant Pests program provides valuable technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, successful state, county, and municipal eradication and control efforts are threatened by the continued spread of pests in states, counties, and cities that lack the resources to quarantine, treat, or otherwise control pests,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges increased funding for APHIS for pest control and eradication, and endorses budget appropriations of $45 million to contain the emerald ash

borer, $30 million to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle, $10 million to contain the sudden oak death pathogen, and $5 million to manage *Sirex* woodwasp populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors endorses the Invasive Species Revolving Loan Fund championed by Senator Richard Durbin to aid municipalities in their efforts to fight invasive species, and to replace trees and other vegetation damaged as a result of infestation or eradication measures.