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Resolution # AG-2015-01

Sponsor: NSAAS

Resolution In Support of Research on Invasive Diseases

Whereas, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 Northeast states from Maine to Maryland, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and five Eastern Canadian Provinces; and

Whereas, food production has been challenged in recent years with the emergence of invasive animal and plant diseases like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), citrus greening and the invasive pine beetles are impacting our food supply and damaging wide swaths of crop and forest land; and

Whereas, using the recent HPAI infection as an example, more than 48 million domestic poultry were destroyed in the last four months; and

Whereas, farmers, foresters and agriculture related businesses have seen significant losses in revenue and jobs have been lost and furloughed; and

Whereas, state, provincial and federal governments are investing millions of dollars to respond and recover from these disease outbreaks; and

Whereas, the ERC recognizes the serious economic and food safety and security threats posed by these and future outbreaks and the role that state, provincial and federal governments play in channeling resources and providing assistance to those affected by these disease; now therefore be it;

Resolved, the ERC strongly supports the funding necessary for more aggressive animal and plant disease research at all levels, biosecurity containment strategies, and sensitive approaches to information sharing; and be it further

Resolved, that states and provinces work closely together supporting regional veterinary and plant health extension efforts as well as work with universities, affected industries and workers so that they can continue to

serve as laboratories of innovation in problem solving and policy making; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be submitted to the US Secretary of Agriculture and the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, the head of the USDA Animal And Plant Health Inspection Service, and the State Veterinarians and Secretaries, Ministers and Commissioners of Agriculture, as well as the members of Congress of the ERC jurisdictions.