



November 7, 2012

RE: Emerald Ash Borer in Massachusetts

Dear Friends,

At public meetings held on October 16 and October 17, in Pittsfield and Sturbridge, respectively, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), the U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the USDA's Forest Service addressed the implications surrounding the recent discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in western Massachusetts.

Central to these meetings was the issue of establishing a quarantine boundary within the state that would restrict the movement of certain wood products under certain conditions. Attendees participated in a question-and-answer session and were invited to offer feedback, both during the course of the meetings and subsequently, in order to help guide the state's actions as it moves forward with responding to the discovery of this destructive pest.

If you would like to view the presentations made by the state and federal agencies at the public meetings, they are posted at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/forestrygeneralpast.htm>. In addition, we encourage you provide your input during a public comment period that has been extended through the close of business on Wednesday, November 21, 2012. Comments can be submitted by emailing dcr.updates@state.ma.us, noting "EAB" in the subject line; calling 617-626-4974; or writing to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114.

Future communications will address the results of EAB monitoring efforts, the establishment of a quarantine area in MA, the scheduling of workshops and "train-the-trainer" programs, and other actions aimed at preventing the spread of this invasive beetle. These updates will be posted on DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/index.htm>.

We appreciate your interest and concern about the discovery of the EAB in Massachusetts and look forward to working with you to implement an effective response to it.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Lambert, Jr.
Commissioner

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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