



National Association of State Foresters Forest Science and Health Committee

**Continental Dialogue
Savannah, Georgia
November 9 – 10, 2017**

NASF Accomplishments in 2017

Congressional Briefing: This past year, NASF, partnering with USFS FHP, held a briefing of Capitol Hill for members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. The briefing highlighted the current threats of invasive forest pests and naturally occurring pests and the impacts they are having on the ecosystems, industries and urban communities.

Fourteen House members attended the briefing as well as multiple staff from other House members interested in forests and forest health. The meeting was scheduled for 20 minutes but members stayed for nearly 90 minutes.

NASF and USFS FHP are planning additional briefings in the future.

Certified Firewood Resolution: In April 2016 the NASF Forest Science and Health Committee invited a member of the National Association of Firewood Producers to speak at the Committee's Annual Partners and Stakeholders Meeting. The representative spoke about their association's initiative to create a certification system for packaged firewood. At the end of his presentation the NASF FS&H Committee voted to support their initiative and to bring a resolution to NASF membership publicly supporting a certified packaged firewood program.

In September of this year NASF membership unanimously approved the resolution and urges the firewood producer industry to continue to seek a certification program.

Planned Actions for 2018

In a meeting with APHIS officials and NASF leadership in Washington DC in December 2016, APHIS announced to NASF that it might seek the deregulation of the Emerald Ash Borer. At the time, NASF leadership voiced their concerns regarding the possible impacts this deregulation might carry with it.

Recently APHIS has announced it will proceed with the deregulation process. The NASF Forest Science & Health Committee will seek to gather information from the NASF membership through a survey in early 2018. This survey will provide information to help NASF determine how best to respond during the deregulation process.

Coalition Against Forest Pests: 2017 Update

2017 has proved to be a quiet year for CAFP. The slow transition of the new Administration has kept activities to a minimum. Two letters were drafted during the year; one to welcome

Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue and suggest a meeting with CAFP members and the Secretary and/or his staff and the second to Congress regarding forest health budgeting. Unfortunately, not enough signatory organizations could be garnered to send the letters under the CAFP banner.

Currently, CAFP is planning a call to see how best it might communicate the newly nominated Undersecretary of Agriculture, Marketing and Regulatory Affairs, Greg Ibach who will oversee APHIS to discuss current issues and policies regarding forest health.