

Mr. Thomas D. Brady  
Conservation Administrator  
Town of Brookline  
Brookline Town Hall  
333 Washington St.  
Brookline, MA 02445

July 06, 2009

RE: MA Tree Wardens and MA Arborist Volunteer Help with Asian Longhorned Beetle

Dear Mr. Brady,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) program based in Worcester, MA we would like to thank you and your group for being so open and willing to assist us in our efforts to eradicate the ALB from Massachusetts. As discussed, the start-up of the project was very involved. We feel we have laid out the foundation for a manageable and ultimately successful eradication project within Massachusetts.

Currently there is a 64 square mile regulated area that has been imposed and within this area there are over 656,000 ALB host trees that need to be visually surveyed for signs of infestation. Surveying host trees through climbing is the best method for detecting low levels of infestations. As you are well aware, this is a very resource intensive task and will take several years to accomplish considering the number of host trees requiring survey. The expertise of the members from your organization and the Massachusetts Arborist Association can greatly assist the project in our survey efforts. An issue that we still need to overcome is the liability to the state and federal agencies with utilizing volunteers for project activities.

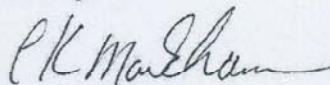
What we suggest, recognizing that it is a very busy time of year for all in the tree/forestry industry, is that we work with you and your immediate team over the summer months on a plan that can be executed in the fall/winter with minimal deviations. During these summer months, we will also work with our legal teams to ensure that we take the appropriate steps for working with volunteers.

During the summer months, the organizations can play a vital role in the eradication efforts by surveying host trees during the course of your day to day operations and ensuring that members of your organization across the state are trained to detect signs of infestation in host trees. ALB remained undetected in Central Massachusetts for many years and the risk exists that infested wood may have been transported to other locations in the state. The Massachusetts ALB project team has a lot of work in front of us for the next several years and without support from groups like yours we know our work would be that much more difficult. We look forward to meeting with you soon to begin laying out the plan for this fall.

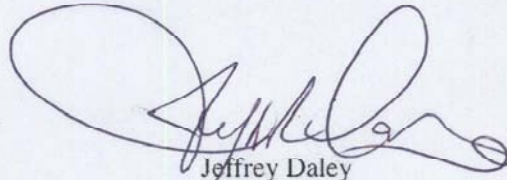
Again, on behalf of the entire Massachusetts ALB team many thanks to you and your team of professionals. Your continued support and willingness to help is very much appreciated.

If you have any concerns, comments or considerations, please advise.

Sincerely,



Christine Markham  
ALB National Program Director  
USDA APHIS



Jeffrey Daley  
Senior Policy Advisor  
MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

