

MARK STEVEN KIRK  
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1310

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1717 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4835  
FAX: (202) 225-0837  
www.house.gov/kirk

DEERFIELD OFFICE:  
102 WILMOT ROAD, SUITE 200  
DEERFIELD, IL 60015  
(847) 940-0202  
FAX: (847) 940-7143

WAUKEGAN OFFICE:  
20 SOUTH MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE  
WAUKEGAN, IL 60085  
(847) 662-0101  
FAX: (847) 662-7519

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July 14, 2006

Secretary Michael O. Johanns  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,


We have received reports from a community in my district, Wilmette, Illinois, that the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle infested a several block area. Wilmette's Village President, Chris Canning, reports that up to 2,800 trees could be at risk.

As you know, the Ash Borer Beetle is a highly destructive species that caused the death of over 20 million trees since 2002. We cannot suffer such a loss in Northern Illinois. The spread of this species would be a terrible blow to the ecology of our area.

I request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer Wilmette and surrounding North Shore communities federal expertise and assistance to eliminate the Ash Borer beetle and prevent its spread to neighboring towns.

I would like to speak with you first thing Monday morning to hear how the USDA can help our Northern Illinois communities.

Sincerely,



Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress