

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board

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July 1, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

At the November, 2008, general meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board (the Board), a focus session was held on the subject of Invasive Species. During this session, REE Mission Area staff as well as Land Grant University and stakeholder experts updated the Board with respect to current major research needs and other issues associated with invasive species management and control.

From these presentations and the discussion that followed this focus session, the Board has summarized its observations and prepared comments for the USDA to consider. The report should not be viewed as being all-inclusive or containing specific recommendations. Rather, it provides a general overview of high priority issues and highlights several successful examples of REE contributions to invasive species prevention, management and control.

It is with pleasure that I provide you the Board's summary report from this focus session. As always, I remain available to discuss our findings with you at any time.

Sincerely,



Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Deputy Secretary Merrigan
Under Secretary for REE Shah
U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations committees/subcommittees
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities