



"Serving Western Legislatures"

Resolution: 15-03

Resolution on Animal and Plant Disease Research and Funding

WHEREAS, Food production has been challenged in recent years with the emergence of invasive animal and plant diseases like citrus greening, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and invasive pine beetles, which are affecting our food supply and damaging wide swaths of crop and forest land; and

WHEREAS, Using the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation as an example in plants, more than 20 million acres have been impacted, adversely impacting the West's ecology and economy, while High Pathogenic Avian Influenza has caused the death or destruction of more than 48 million domestic poultry in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of invasive species infestations are extensive, long term and costly in many respects; and

WHEREAS, Farmers, foresters and agriculture related businesses have seen significant losses in revenue, and jobs have been lost and furloughed; and

WHEREAS, State, provincial and federal governments are investing millions of dollars to respond and recover from these disease outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, CSG West recognizes the serious economic and food safety and security threats posed by these and future outbreaks, and the role that state, provincial and federal governments play in channeling resources and providing assistance to those affected by these diseases;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CSG West strongly supports the funding necessary for more aggressive animal and plant disease research at all levels, biosecurity containment strategies, and sensitive approaches to information sharing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that states and provinces work closely together supporting regional veterinary and plant health extension efforts as well as work with universities, affected industries and workers so that they can continue to serve as laboratories of innovation in problem solving and policy making.

Adopted by the CSG West Executive Committee on July 31, 2015 during the 68th CSG West Annual Meeting in Vail, Colorado.