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July 18, 2006

Honorable _____
Address

**National Association of
Exotic Pest Plant Councils**

Address
Address
(000) 000-0000
fax (000) 000-0000
website url
email

Member Groups

Alabama Invasive Plant Council
California Invasive Plant Council
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group
Connecticut Invasive Plant Council
Florida EPPC
Invasive Plant Council of New York State
Kentucky EPPC
Michigan Invasive Plant Council
Mid-Atlantic EPPC
Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Mississippi EPPC
North Carolina EPPC
Ohio Invasive Plant Council
Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council
South Carolina EPPC
Southeast EPPC
Tennessee EPPC
Wisconsin Invasive Plant Association

RE: Support for \$15M Appropriations for PL 108-412

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. We represent 17 member groups, which together represent professional and volunteer resource managers in XX states.

We strongly support appropriation of funds for Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). PL 108-412 was signed into law in 2004 with bipartisan support. An appropriation of \$15 million per year would provide invaluable support for on-the-ground efforts to control invasive plants in areas throughout the nation.

Cooperative Weed Management Areas are extremely successful because they engage local stakeholders and leverage significant funding and in-kind support. Federal funds will support existing efforts and encourage new CWMAs to form.

Invasive plants cause extensive damage to agriculture and the environment. Conservative estimates place nationwide costs at more than \$100 billion each year. By addressing weeds on the ground in local areas, CWMAs are a key part of the solution to this sobering problem.

We urge your support for appropriating \$15 million for CWMAs through PL 108-412. Please feel free to call me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,