

Mr. Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

**Re: Light Brown Apple Moth Reclassification**

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing as a resident of the State of California to ask you to: (1) reclassify the light brown apple moth (LBAM) from an actionable pest to a non-actionable pest; (2) stop burdensome LBAM quarantines on our state's farmers; and (3) end the LBAM eradication program.

There is no valid scientific justification for the LBAM program. Earlier this year, the National Academy of Science expressed skepticism about the science behind classification of the LBAM as a major pest, casting serious doubt about the credibility of the LBAM eradication program. Just last week, a scientific study was published in the peer reviewed journal *California Agriculture*, which states that in New Zealand, the LBAM is a "minor pest" of grapes, does "incidental" and "superficial" damage to fruit and berries with less than 2% damage on unsprayed fruit trees; and concludes that "California may ultimately achieve the same levels of light brown apple moth control as obtained in New Zealand" by natural predator insects and treatments that growers already use for other similar bugs. The study reports data showing that predator insects reduce apple moth populations by up to an estimated 95%.

This is in stark contrast to the statewide LBAM program using chemical and other expensive treatments that the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) has undertaken for the LBAM. Not only are the sprays that CDFA is forcing upon our farmers and nurseries expensive, burdensome and harmful to our health, but according to studies like the one described above, by requiring the use of broad-spectrum neurotoxin chemicals such as organophosphate pesticides, CDFA is likely worsening LBAM control, because those sprays destroy the beneficial predators that are likely to feed upon the LBAM naturally.

President Obama promised us that his administration's policies would be based upon sound science. Our children deserve to live in a safe and healthy environment. The LBAM program lacks a scientific foundation and threatens the well being of our farmers, children, and all of California's residents, as well as our entire fragile ecosystem. Please put an end to this program immediately and stop the shameful waste of our precious tax dollars.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Please print the following information below:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_