

Congressman Sam Farr  
100 W. Alisal St. CA  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Congressman Farr:

Thank you for your efforts leading to the California Department of Food and Agriculture stopping aerial spraying over urban areas and for submitting the petition to the US Department of Agriculture to reclassify the Light Brown Apple Moth to a C.

As you have said, the spraying was and is a “lightning rod” for controversy. More than that, the entire program causes continuing--unnecessary--controversy, and, as long as the LBAM program continues, the controversy will continue. Why? Aside from the ridiculous cost to our taxpayers, health and environmental concerns, costs and requirements for growers and nursery owners, and untested programs are all highly important. Above all, USDA has never provided ANY “sound science,” to use your phrase, to prove that the LBAM is truly a threat to any nursery plants, agricultural crops, or natural flora.

Please assure us that you will do everything you can to persuade your agricultural appropriations committee to (using your phrasing from the Town Hall Meeting in Santa Cruz) “hold the USDA’s feet to the fire.” Demand that the USDA provide proof that the LBAM is truly an actionable pest. USDA has never provided any acceptable evidence, as outlined in the petition. Where is the proof?

Without proof, the LBAM eradication program and quarantines must stop and trade arrangements must be renegotiated with Mexico and Canada.

Sincerely,

Your salutation