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New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

March 3, 2014

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

Her Excellency Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan and Honorable Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (NHDAMF), to receive a waiver from the provisions of NH Purchasing Rules 611.08(g) to increase its vehicle fleet by adding one vehicle.

This request is being made due to a new position added to the Division of Plant Industry, through Chapters 143 & 144, Laws of 2013. The new position, an Entomologist I, and vehicle were added by the legislature to help address the challenges of responding to and preventing the spread of invasive insect pests, including the emerald ash borer (EAB) which was first discovered in Concord this past spring. The division needs a small SUV to transport equipment, including the large traps that are placed in trees to help detect the presence of EAB.

Funds are to be expended from the Division of Plant Industry equipment line item and Product Account, for FY 2014: **02-18-18-183500 Division of Plant Industry** and **02-18-18-181500 Product and Scale Testing Fund**.

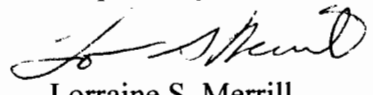
<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>
21350000-030-500300	Motor Vehicles	\$15,850
26050000-030-500300	Motor Vehicles	<u>491</u>
	Total	\$16,341

EXPLANATION

Under RSA 430:2 Suppression of Pests, the commissioner of agriculture and the state entomologist (who directs the Division of Plant Industry) are responsible for "the suppression or control of any insect pest or plant disease which, in their judgment, seriously threatens the state or any part thereof." EAB is considered the most destructive invasive forest pest in North America, and poses a threat to ash trees in New Hampshire's forests and its urban and residential landscapes. EAB poses economic losses as well damage to the natural resources of the state. Two new invasive agricultural insect pests--spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stinkbug - have also recently arrived in New Hampshire. The growing number of invasive pests requires increased monitoring and inspection and coordination of efforts with other state and federal agencies.

NHDAMF needs this equipment to fulfill its core mission of public protection.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine S. Merrill
Commissioner