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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

November 12, 2013

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The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington DC 20503

Dear Director Burwell:

As the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) works to develop the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request, we respectfully request that you pursue an invasive species budget crosscut and engage in a discussion with Congress regarding legislative solutions to address unintended impediments to the prevention and control of invasive species.

As you know, invasive species pose significant threats to both the economy and the environment of the United States. Some estimate that the annual cost of damage to American agriculture, water infrastructure, recreation, and forests caused by invasive species exceeds \$100 billion. In these challenging fiscal times we feel it is important that the federal government focus on reducing risk as we set our annual funding priorities. In the area of natural resources and environment, there are few risks more severe than those posed by invasive species.

In the past, OMB has supported an interdepartmental budget crosscut on invasive species. Therefore, as you formulate the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request, we ask that you assemble and include an invasive species budget crosscut as a tool to better integrate interagency coordination on this problem that does not respect geographic or institutional boundaries.

Second, while federal funding is certainly important to help address the nation's numerous invasive species challenges, we feel it is equally important to promote interagency and intergovernmental cooperation in this area, and effective involvement with the private, academic, and non-profit sectors. To the extent that there are unintended statutory impediments to achieving such heightened cooperation, we would welcome a discussion with the Administration on legislative solutions to eliminate those impediments.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact us or Dan Sousa in Rep. Thompson's office at (202) 225-3311.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this important issue and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Mike Thompson**  
Member of Congress

**Dan Benishek**  
Member of Congress



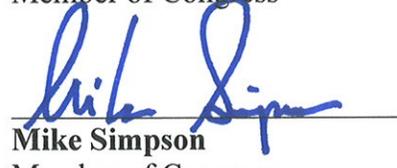
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