

06/17/97 12:55

202 277 655

CONG. PASTOR DC

002

ED PASTOR
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

PLEASE REPLY TO
2-65 RAYBURN HONORIF OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0302
(202) 225-4005

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS



RyeGrass File
B 5-2-87
Cross File Position

STATEMENT

602 N. THIRD AVENUE
PHOENIX, AZ 85003-1441
(602) 766-9651
3432 E. BROADWAY
TUCSON, AZ 85719-6055
(520) 824-9700
111 W. 24TH STREET, SUITE 113
YUMA, AZ 85384-1141
(520) 726-2234

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 17, 1997

The Honorable Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
12th St. and Jefferson Drive S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

BY FACSIMILE

COPY

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have recently been advised of an important development regarding the Karnal bunt situation which I wanted to bring to your immediate attention.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) reports that wheat inoculated with spores from a wheat/rye grass mixture from the Southeastern U.S. has caused Karnal bunt disease in the wheat. The particular spores were supplied for testing to the University of Arizona by your Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Dr. Michael Stanghellini of the University of Arizona headed the inoculation project using protocols developed by USDA scientists. I understand that Dr. Stanghellini has reported his findings to APHIS which, apparently, has conducted its own inoculation tests and produced the same results.

I believe this development is very important because it confirms that the spores found in ryegrass seed that have been tested by APHIS and found to be indistinguishable from Karnal bunt are, in fact, Karnal bunt. Given that ryegrass seed is sold and distributed throughout this country and 26 foreign countries, it is very likely that many other states, including those in the Southeastern U.S., have been contaminated with Karnal bunt spores.

In view of these developments, I would urge you to reconsider once again the Karnal bunt regulatory scheme you plan to impose on my state set forth in the Interim Rule published by the Department on May 1, 1997. While the Interim Rule relaxes somewhat the so-called "zero tolerance for spores" standard adopted by USDA in march 1996, the Rule's restrictions, especially on our seed producing industry, continue to harm the growers and stigmatize their wheat. It seems to me that the time has come to eliminate all of the restrictions proposed in the Interim Rule for the remaining four counties in Arizona still under regulation. There is no sound scientific basis for treating Arizona differently than any other wheat producing states where ryegrass is planted.

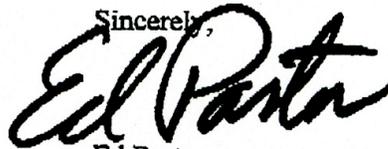
The Honorable Dan Glickman, page two.

COPY

Would you be kind enough to call me after you have reviewed this letter to discuss the impact the above test results might have on your thinking. I believe it is important that you give these developments full consideration in anticipation of the widespread public attention they will likely receive.

Many thanks, Dan, for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

EP:dm