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**United States Senate**  
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**COMMITTEES:**  
ARMED SERVICES  
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

December 11, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-128, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-128, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, United States Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

I respectfully ask that you fully fund the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Specialty Crop Pest program in the final Fiscal Year 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill, and within that funding provide \$16.066 million for the spotted lanternfly, which is consistent with the House funding level for Fiscal Year 2021. Fully funding this pest initiative will help contain this invasive species that is devastating northeastern crops and has the potential to spread to further states.

Spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive species that is thought to have arrived in the United States in 2012. According to Cornell University, the first infestation was found in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014. Although quarantine measures were taken in the infested townships and efforts were taken to eradicate this pest, spotted lanternfly has proved difficult to contain. Currently there are infestations of spotted lantern fly in nine states, including in my home state of New York.

It is imperative that this pest is contained before it further invades the Eastern Seaboard and eventually makes its spread across the United States. This would have devastating effects on agriculture, tourism, and residential homes. Through their research, Cornell University has highlighted that the spotted lanternfly has a strong preference for specialty crops such as grapes, decimating entire vineyards in Pennsylvania. If this pest is able to migrate out of its current location, it could prove to be devastating for all states with a strong specialty crop sector.

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In order to further manage the spread of this invasive species. I strongly urge you to include \$16.066 million for the spotted lanternfly, within the APHIS Specialty Crop Pest program, in the final Fiscal Year 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill. Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator