

C O N G R E S S M A N

BillHuizenga

Michigan's 4th District



COSPONSOR: H.R.4739 - the “Protecting America’s Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers Act”

By Reps. Huizenga (R-MI) and Panetta (D-CA)

Background: USDA’s Tree Assistance Program (TAP) is a critical disaster program that provides rehabilitation and replanting financial assistance for tree, bush, and vine growers in the wake of natural disasters, disease, and infestations.

What it does: To improve TAP, this bill...

- Increases access to financial assistance for growers by allowing TAP payments for those who get at least 75% of their income from farming
- Covers more damage by lowering the plant mortality threshold
- Institutes greater flexibility for growers to replant their destroyed crops with different varieties, in better locations, or using different stand densities
- Fixes absurd mandates by allowing growers more than just 1 year to replant a crop if necessary for the plant’s health
- Expands eligibility for growers of not just “annual” crops, but also “biennial” crops
- Cuts red tape by ensuring TAP applications are answered within 120 days

Supporters include: American Farm Bureau; Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance; US Apple; North American Blueberry Council; Cherry Marketing Institute

Please contact Remy Fortin (remy.fortin@mail.house.gov) to cosponsor.