



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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**MOORE SPONSORS AIRING OF NEW DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE DEVASTATING  
INVASION OF THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE AT STATEHOUSE**

**Boston** – A different sort of Beetlemania is set for the Statehouse next week, where a screening of a new documentary called *Lurking in the Trees* will be held, sponsored by Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Worcester) and other area legislators. The film tells the story of the recent Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation in greater Worcester. Some experts fear that the infestation, which has already cost 25,000 trees; may be discovered in other cities and towns across the Commonwealth and New England.

*Lurking in the Trees* presents Worcester as a town that could be anywhere in America, filled with people who are seeing the devastation of forest pests on a personal level and rising to the challenge of protecting the entire region's vital natural resources.

The program was sponsored by Moore, as well as Worcester legislators Senator Harriette Chandler, Representative Jim O'Day, Representative John Binienda, Representative John Fresolo, Representative Vincent Pedone, and Representative Robert Spellane; Lt. Governor Timothy P. Murray, Commissioner Richard Sullivan of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Commissioner Scott Soares of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources; the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and the Nature Conservancy, the screening, followed by a briefing and question-and-answer period, will be held on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and is open to all legislators.

The ALB infestation, first discovered in Worcester in August 2008, is the fifth known infestation in North America. Burrowing into the hearts of maple trees in Worcester, it has infested over ten thousand trees there. Because there is no pesticide known to save infested trees, the only way to prevent the spread of the bug was to cut down over 25,000 trees, turning what once were canopied streets into stark naked roadways.

While Worcester residents are working to prevent the ALB from further decimating the tree population, the bug is still a threat to New England forests. The Nature Conservancy, the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people, will be airing *Lurking in the Trees*, on television stations across the country in an effort to warn residents to keep an eye out for the pests.

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