



The emerald ash borer (EAB) was first detected during a survey in Omaha's Pulaski Park in June of 2016.

LB 71: TREE RECOVERY ACT

A bill introduced by Senator Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln would help jumpstart the state's response to the recently discovered emerald ash borer (EAB). LB 71, otherwise known as the Tree Recovery Act, would appropriate \$3 million a year for tree removal, disposal, and replacement. Funding would become available to qualifying communities and public lands as 50/50 cost-share grants.

Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) inventory data shows that nearly 1 million ash trees are at-risk in Nebraska's communities. Estimates show that city governments will need to commit more than \$275 million to respond to public safety and infrastructure threats posed by infested, decaying trees. Early signs of an EAB infestation are difficult to detect, which is why proactive action is the best tool to shield communities from increasing response costs.

If passed, LB 71 would declare the appropriation an emergency, making the funding available as early as this year. EAB was first discovered in Omaha's Pulaski Park in June of 2016. Five counties (Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, and Cass) are currently under state and federal quarantines restricting the movement of hardwood firewood and mulch, ash timber products and green waste material outside of the quarantine zone.

**To learn more about LB 71 please contact your district senator:
http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php**