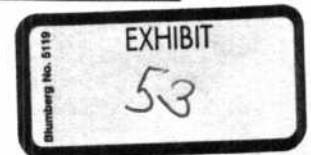


6/23/15

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM



CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT  
AMERICAN PECAN COUNCIL (M.O. 986)  
PUBLIC MEMBER/ALTERNATE

The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) needs the following information to determine whether you are qualified under Marketing Order No. 986 to serve on the American Pecan Council (Council). Statutory authority to collect this information is provided in 7 U.S.C. 608. Failure to provide this information may hinder your selection by the Secretary.

1. Name (Please Print):	2. Tel. No. (Include Area Code):	3. Fax No. (Include Area code):
4. Mailing Address (Street, City, County, State and Zip Code):		
4b. E-Mail Address:		
5. State of Residency		
6. Are you or any member of your immediate family directly associated with the pecan industry, financially or otherwise? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
7. If you have an indirect relationship with the pecan industry, please explain.		
8. Please list all public interest and service type organizations of which you are or have been a member, and list positions held with each organization.		
9. Are you willing to familiarize yourself with the industry and the provisions of the Marketing Agreement and/or Order, with the understanding that members of the industry and the Council staff would assist you in this familiarization process? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
10. Are you willing to spend the time necessary to represent the public properly on such Council? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
11. List any special qualifications you may have which would enhance your qualifications to serve.		
12. This information is Voluntary and data will not be used to grant preferential treatment:		
What is your gender? <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	What is your race? (Mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian /Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White
Do you have a disability? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

Council members, in their official capacities, are prohibited from taking any action specifically designed to influence legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion concerning legislation. Council members may not communicate with any official of a State or Federal legislative

body for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. Council members are also prohibited from attempting to influence State or Federal government actions or policies or those of foreign governments, except as specifically authorized under the marketing order or expressly approved by the Secretary.

Council members are specifically precluded from authorizing the expenditure of Marketing Order funds for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation or government actions.

These same prohibitions apply to Council managers, staff, and contractors, except that Council managers may consult with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees during the pendency of informal rulemaking actions.

If Council members or Council employees are sued individually or jointly for errors in judgment, mistakes or other acts either of omission or commission (except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence) in the conduct of their duties under the Marketing Agreement or Order, they may be authorized legal defense by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Alternatively, legal defense may be provided through private counsel, if recommended by the USDA and approved by DOJ. The USDA and DOJ enjoy an excellent working relationship with respect to providing legal representation for Council members and employees, either by DOJ or through authorized private counsel. The USDA is committed to a comprehensive legal defense policy for all Council members and employees acting within the scope of their authorized Council duties and responsibilities.

I certify that the information above is correct and I am willing to serve on the Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0189. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.