

**TESTIMONY OF**

**LAMAR JENKINS**

**Pecan Federal Marketing Order Hearing**

**Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0023; FV15-986-1**

**Eastern Region – Tifton, Georgia - July 27, 28 and 29, 2015**

My name is Lamar Jenkins. It is spelled L-A-M-A-R J-E-N-K-I-N-S. I live in Albany Georgia. I am currently the President of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association. I have been authorized by the Board of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association to testify on its behalf in support of a federal marketing order for pecans and I have written a letter on behalf of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association to the Secretary of Agriculture. Attached is the letter. I am also testifying in my individual capacity as a grower in support of the federal marketing order for pecans.

Since 1935 the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association has had an annual convention. The organization is comprised of seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Louisiana. The Association has experienced considerable growth in its 100 years of existence.

The objectives include the promotion of interest in the pecan industry, discussion involving problems of production, management and marketing of

pecans. Scientists and growers from Southeastern states, as well as visitors from other areas, present papers and statistics on a wide variety of topics at meetings.

Membership is composed of pecan growers or other persons or firms who are interested in and will lend assistance to the promotion of the objectives and purposes of the Association.

The association has over 150 members. The vast majority of our members are classified as small businesses under the guidelines provided by the Small Business Administration.

The American Pecan Board has kept our organization informed about its efforts to propose a federal marketing order. Representatives of the American Pecan Board attended a meeting of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association on February 27, 2015 and provided us with information and solicited our input. Members of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association are on the Board of the American Pecan Board.

I have reviewed the economic analysis of the proposed order by Dr. Marco Palma. The Southeastern Pecan Growers Association is fully aware of the anticipated costs that will be incurred by its members if the federal marketing order for pecans is implemented and we do not believe that these costs will be unduly burdensome on our members regardless of their size. Further, we believe that the benefits of such an order will result in increased marketing, more accurate data on

crop production and increased domestic demand for pecans and will greatly outweigh any burden that will be placed on our members.

The Southeastern Pecan Growers Association does not believe that the American Pecan Council which will be formed as a part of the federal marketing order will in any way conflict with the goals and purposes of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association. To the contrary, we believe that the American Pecan Council will complement our efforts.

Finally, we understand that under the proposed federal marketing order, only growers with more than thirty acres or an average 50,000 pounds of pecans during the last four years will be eligible to vote to approve or disapprove the proposed order. We believe that this is a reasonable and fair classification because any grower that is smaller than this would not be a commercial entity and would not be economically viable.

In conclusion, the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association fully supports the proposed federal marketing order for pecans and I will encourage our members to vote in favor of it. As a grower myself, I personally endorse the proposed order and encourage the Secretary to implement it as soon as it is approved.

I would be glad to answer any questions.



# SOUTHEASTERN PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

248 W. DOUBLEGATE DRIVE • ALBANY, GA 31721

## OFFICERS:

LAMAR JENKINS  
*President*

248 W. Doublegate Dr.  
Albany, GA 31721  
662-902-1617

TOM CHILDRESS  
*Vice President*

1811 Antioch Road  
Albany, GA 31705  
229-669-4544

VICKI JENKINS  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

248 W. Doublegate Dr.  
Albany, GA 31721  
662-902-1637

## DIRECTORS:

CLARENCE BISHOP  
Fairhope, AL

BOBBY BOSTICK  
Camilla, GA

JOE BUZHARDT  
Bolton, MS

ROB COHEN  
Brinson, GA

RODGER COOK  
Silverhill, AL

TIM HAITHCOCK  
Goldsboro, NC

TOM HARMON  
Gilbert, SC

TAYLOR HARPER  
Grand Bay, AL

MICHAEL HORNE, JR.  
Americus, GA

BEN LITTLEPAGE  
Colfax, LA

SHERMAN RICHARDSON  
Colfax, LA

LENNY WELLS  
Tifton, GA

LANAIR WORSHAM  
Camilla, GA

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 200-A  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Southeastern Pecan Growers Association is writing you in support of the Federal Marketing Order for Pecans currently being promulgated by the American Pecan Board. Our industry has and continues to face issues of price and supply instability in the market. This situation inhibits our effort to provide a consistent quality supply of pecans to domestic consumers at a price that supports a profitable return to producers and processors. We believe that a Federal Marketing Order will contribute to a more stable market environment that is favorable to growers, buyers, shellers, and consumers.

The Southeastern Pecan Growers Association goes on record in favor of the Order and greatly appreciates your support.

Respectfully submitted,

President, Southeastern Pecan Growers Association

cc: The Honorable Edward M. Avalos  
Office of the Under Secretary  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Jamic L. Whitten Federal Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 228-W  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Anne L. Alonzo  
Administrator  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
South Agriculture Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3069  
Washington, D.C. 20250