



Chamber of Commerce
Uruguay - USA

Building business opportunities

Montevideo, April 4th, 2013

Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road
Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Re: Docket No. APHIS-2011-0060
Proposed Rule: Importation of Fresh Citrus from Uruguay

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing in full support of the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Docket No. APHIS-2011-0060, that allows for the importation into the Continental United States fresh citrus from Uruguay under certain conditions.

The Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-USA, founded in 1934, is an independent, non-profit organization whose main objective is to promote trade, investment, industrial and commercial activities between the United States and Uruguay.

On the one hand, the Uruguayan citrus industry is outstanding within the fruit export segment. A solid compromise to export fruit of best quality has become one of the most outstanding attributes in a small but qualified country.

The sector has a background of more than 40 years exporting to very strict markets in the European Union, Central Europe and Canada.

On the other hand, the US market for fresh fruit has grown under counterseasonal pattern during the months there is no domestic production. The market share figures have certainly changed in the last years and growth has been steady over the past decade. Research projects indicate that growth will continue and customers acknowledge the emergence of a summer citrus category.

Thus, this is an opportunity for Uruguay to access a new qualified market without competing directly with US growers.

We will greatly appreciate APHIS and USDA decision of adopting and implementing this rule.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrewina McCubbin
President