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Docket No. APHIS – 20130 0081
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS
Station 3A- 03.8
4700 River Road
Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Docket No. 2013-0081

Today I write to you in support of the Department's proposed rule change to 7 CFR Part 305.6 which will incorporate phytosanitary criteria for cold treatment facilities in regions of our nation currently banned from allowing for this type of treatment to occur. It is my hope that the Department favorably approves this proposed rule change.

Foremost I would like to thank the Department for demonstrating their willingness to set forth a path that would establish more ports of entry and cold treatment facilities for the importation of fruits and vegetables within the United States. While I deeply understand the need to ensure that any new facility undertakes the necessary steps to ensure public safety, it is my belief that this proposed rule will accomplish that as well as increase competition within the United States as it relates to supply sources. This regulated competition will of course ultimately benefit our nation's consumers. This is especially important and valid point as the demand for these products increases as our nation's need for healthy food products increases as well.

Furthermore it is my understanding that in 2002 three Southern U.S. ports were approved for cold treatment. Considering that fact and the fact that demand has increased, the proposed generic criteria will establish a clear path for others to follow which will eliminate any guessing as it relates to why some regions have been exempted while others have not been exempted from the underlying rule. Therefore I am pleased that this proposal treats all areas equitably and doesn't pick "winners" and "losers". Instead the proposal clearly establishes the safety protocol for all those to follow prior to the products going to market.

Again, thank you for establishing this proposed rule and it is my hope that it is adopted in its entirety as soon as the law allows. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Marquez

Global Trade Compliance Manager / Mission Produce, Inc.

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