

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT (COMMITTEE MEMBER)

Marketing Order No.: 955 Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia

DISTRICT _____ **POSITION** _____ **YEAR 20** ____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Business Address _____

(If you are a handler, also show your firm's name and in what capacity you serve in such firm.)

Previously served on the Committee? Yes No Is your operation certified organic? Yes No

Years growing (if grower) _____ Vidalia onion acreage and last year's production _____

Years handling (if handler) _____ Approximate cars handled _____

Membership in industry organizations and/or office held in any other activity in past years connected with industry programs: _____

Marketing order committee 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. Committee members may not communicate with any official of a State or Federal legislative body for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. Committee 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. Committee 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 committee managers, staff, and contractors, except that committee managers may consult with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees during the pendency of informal rulemaking actions.

If marketing order committee or subcommittee members or committee 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 USDA and approved by DOJ. USDA and DOJ enjoy an excellent working relationship with respect to providing legal representation for committee members and employees, either by DOJ or through authorized private counsel. USDA is committed to a comprehensive legal defense policy for all committee members and employees acting within the scope of their authorized committee duties and responsibilities.

I am willing to serve on the Vidalia Onion Committee.

Signature

Date

The above information is required to determine the eligibility and willingness of the nominee to serve on the committee.

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 0581-0178. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 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.

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