**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE**

**SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM**

**Background/Acceptance Statement for Industry Members and Alternates**

**CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT**

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| **The following information will be used by the Secretary of Agriculture in selecting a representative to serve on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ administers Federal Marketing Order No. \_\_\_, which regulates the handling of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grown in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Statutory authority to collect the information is provided in 7 U.S.C. §§ 601-674. Failure to provide this information may hinder your selection by the Secretary*. This information is required to determine the nominee’s eligibility and willingness to serve and will be treated confidentially.* |
| POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TERM OF OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| NAME:*(as you would like it to appear on official corespondence)* | EMAIL ADDRESS: |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: *(NOTE: If a handler, also show firm name and in what capacity you serve in such firm)* |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER: *(Include area code)* | FAX NUMBER: *(Include area code)* |
| HAVE SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS: *(Mark an “X” in the appropriate box)*□ MEMBER □ ALTERNATE MEMBER |
| YEARS IN INDUSTRY *(include growing and/or handling)* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | IS YOUR OPERATION CERTIFIED ORGANIC? *(fully of partially)* □ Yes □ No  |
| PRODUCTION LAST SEASON. *(if grower)* ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_TONNAGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | IS YOUR OPERATION SMALL? *(as defined by the Small Business Administration for a GROWER as having annual receipts less than the amount for your product in the table on page 3 and a HANDLER as those whose annual receipts are less than $30,000,000 (13 CFR 121.201).*□ Yes □ No |
| APPROXIMATE VOLUME HANDLED LAST SEASON *(if handler)* |
| LIST OFFICES HELD OR MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS CONNECTED WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAMS:For Raisin Administrative Committee only: ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, COOPERATIVE BARGAINING ASSOCIATION, OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION FURTHERING THE INTEREST OF RAISIN OR GRAPE PRODUCERS? IF SO, STATE THE NAME AND YOUR POSITION, IF ANY:LIST OF ALL SALES CONSTITUENCIES (MARKETING OR BROKERAGE GROUPS): |

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. Members, in their official capacity, may not communicate with any official of a State or Federal legislative body for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. 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. 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 managers, staff, and contractors except that managers may consult with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees during the pendency of informal rulemaking actions.

If members, subcommittee members or 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, the 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 members and employees, either by DOJ or through authorized private counsel. USDA is committed to a comprehensive legal defense policy for all members and employees acting within the scope of their authorized duties and responsibilities.

**Acceptance Statement: If selected, I accept the appointment and agree to serve during the period for which I am appointed and until my successor has been selected and qualified. I also agree that I will carry out assigned duties in administering the terms and provisions of the marketing order to the best of my ability. When acting in my official capacity as a representative, I shall engage in only those activities that are authorized under the marketing order.**

For Raisin Administrative Committee (RAC) only: I hereby certify to the RAC and the Secretary that: (a) I am currently a producer of grapes that are being or will be utilized in the production of raisins, and (b) I produced grapes during the 20\_\_\_/20\_\_\_ crop year that were utilized in the production of raisins.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Fruits, Vegetables. Nuts and Specialty Crops** | **Small Business Administration Size Standards (in millions) for Small Farms** |
| Apricots | $ 3.0 |
| Avocados | $ 3.0 |
| Cranberries | $ 3.25 |
| Orange Groves | $ 3.5 |
| Citrus (except Orange) Groves | $ 3.75 |
| Grape Vineyards | $3.5 |
| Kiwifruit | $3.0 |
| Pears | $3.0 |
| Sweet Cherries | $3.0 |
| Tart Cherries | $3.0 |
| Pecans | $3.25 |
| Spearmint Oil | $2.25 |
| Potato | $3.75 |
| Onions | $3.25 |

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| **Fruits, Vegetables. Nuts and Specialty Crops** | **Small Business Administration Size Standards (in millions) for Small Farms** |
| Olives | $3.0 |
| Tomato farming (except under cover), field, bedding plant and seed production | $3.25 |
| Tomato farming grown under cover | $4.0 |
| Dates | $3.0 |
| Prunes | $3.0 |
| Almonds | $3.25 |
| Raisins | $3.5 |
| Walnuts | $3.25 |
| Pistachios | $3.25 |
| Hazelnuts | $3.25 |

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.