

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

**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.)

Have you served previously on the Committee?  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.**

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