



Western Pistachio Association

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June 19, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Western Pistachio Association writes today urging you to support a swift solution to the Mexican trucking dispute that resulted from the FY 09 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

The Western Pistachio Association (WPA) is a non-profit trade association composed of grower members in California, Arizona, New Mexico and other western states. The WPA is a grower led organization, with oversight provided by a board of 18 directors. The WPA is now serving as the sole pistachio grower member trade association for the U.S. pistachio industry.

Because our pistachio production is ever increasing, we heavily rely on export markets like Mexico who is a large trading partner for the U.S. pistachio industry. Because of this trucking dispute, Mexico has imposed a twenty percent tariff on roasted pistachios. As pistachio growers, we are finding this particularly onerous to our trade with Mexico.

This pilot program for cross border truck safety inspections has proven to be effective in both directions of commerce, for our trucks going in to Mexico and Mexican trucks entering into the U.S. Additionally, this has proven to be a cost effective program for trade and commerce with one of our closest NAFTA trading partners.

Again, we urge an expedited solution to this cross border dispute that will allow our growers to renew our trade with Mexico.

Sincerely,

Richard Matoian
Executive Director
Western Pistachio Association

cc: Matthew Nelson, Legislative Assistant