April 19, 2010

RE: FDA Listening Session

You are invited to participate in a listening session and have an opportunity to provide input into FDA’s development of fresh produce safety standards at the farm and packing houses along with strategies and cooperative efforts to ensure compliance. The listening session will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 Northeast Airport Way, Portland, Oregon.

Officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be on hand to listen to your concerns and experiences with implementing food safety requirements in your farming operations and to receive from you the background needed as the federal government moves in the next few years to enact regulations on food safety for the produce industry. Mike Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods; Ann Wright, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Affairs (invited), USDA; Oregon Director of Agriculture, Katy Coba, and Washington Director, Dan Newhouse will be in attendance.

The meeting will open with welcome statements by the Oregon and Washington Directors, introductions of guests, and then local producers/processors will make brief statements on their experiences with food safety requirements on their farms. This will be followed by time for you to raise concerns, provide your perspective, and offer recommendations. The proposed agenda for Wednesday, May 5 along with a copy of the federal register notification on fresh produce standards development are included with this letter. The federal register document describes in more detail the purpose of this listening session.

We encourage you to attend and participate in this great opportunity to be heard by both federal and state officials. Please contact Sherry Kudna @ 503-986-4619 or skudna@oda.state.or.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Katy Coba, Director