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USHBC MEMO

To: Blueberry industry members
From: Kasey Cronquist
Date: January 26, 2021
RE: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF REGIONAL MEMBERS, IMPORTER, EXPORTER and PUBLIC MEMBER

Current terms for USHBC Regional Members, as well as USHBC Importer #1, Exporter #2 and Public Member, will close at the end of 2021. Over the next few months, nominations to fill these seven positions will be underway. Here's a look at the process and how you can get involved.

Nomination packets for USHBC Regional Member positions will be sent by the USHBC to growers in each of the four regions (Western, Midwest, Northeast and Southern) in February. Included in the nomination packet will be a *USHBC Nomination Application Form* and instructions, a *USHBC Information Sheet* and mailing envelope. Nomination packet information will also be posted on the USHBC website at ushbc.org.

Regional member nominations by growers in each region will take place over a five-week period from February 1, 2020 to March 5, 2021. Please send your nominee information to the USHBC prior to the March, 5 2021 closing date. Nominations received after March 5 will not appear on the final printed USHBC ballot.

Following the nomination period, individual USHBC Regional Ballots will be sent to growers in each of the four regions on April 26, 2021. Ballots will list nominees from the region along with their candidate statement. Space will be available on the ballot to indicate write-in candidates. Ballot instructions and a mailing envelope will also be included in the ballot packet. Ballots will also be posted on the USHBC website in downloadable form. Elections will take place over a five-week period from April 26, 2021 to May 30, 2021. Regional Members, as well as Importer #1, Exporter #1 and Public Members, will assume their USHBC positions starting January 1, 2022 for a three-year term.

The USHBC Industry Relations Committee will also be accepting nominees to be considered by the committee for the Importer #1 (1 member position), Exporter #1* (1 member position) and Public Member (1 member position) and their alternates on the council. Nominees for these positions are also being sought for the three-year term that begins on January 1, 2022. The USHBC Industry Relations Committee will present a slate of nominees to the USHBC Executive Committee. The council will then make final candidate selections and recommend to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture a final candidate for member and alternate, along with two additional candidates for each of the three positions for consideration and final appointment.

Blueberry industry members interested in being considered for the USHBC Importer #1, Exporter #1 or Public Member and Alternate positions are encouraged to download the nomination packet from ushbc.org, contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111 or email elections@blueberry.org no later than March 5, 2021.

*This position represents producers that ship blueberries into the US from the largest foreign blueberry production area (currently Chile).

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve a diverse representation on the council. USHBC programs are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, parental status, and marital or family status. It is USHBC policy that membership on the council and its committees reflect the diversity of individuals served by its programs.

To accomplish this objective, the USHBC will strive to attain representation of growers and other industry participants from diverse backgrounds on the council and USHBC committees. To this end, the USHBC strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to seek nominations to the USHBC and to participate in council and USHBC committee activities.

All members of the blueberry industry are encouraged to attend and participate in USHBC meetings and are asked to also consider future service with the USHBC as an elected member or alternate. Please contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111 with questions or for more information about USHBC member or alternate positions. Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tony Hill", written in a cursive style.