

## *USHBC MEMO*

To: Blueberry Industry Members  
From: U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council  
Date: March 21, 2022  
Re: **Nomination of USHBC State Representatives**

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) is seeking nominees to fill state member and alternate positions on the council for the 2023 to 2025 term. State representatives will be selected from the top eight production states based on the average of production from 2019 to 2021. Based on this average, the top eight production states are Oregon, Washington, Michigan, California, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina and Florida. Eligible producer nominees must have produced 2,000 pounds or more of highbush (cultivated) blueberries in the United States from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

State blueberry commissions and councils in Oregon, Washington, Michigan, Georgia, California, New Jersey and North Carolina will handle the nomination and balloting process for the member and alternate positions for each of their states.

Nominees are being sought by the USHBC from the state of Florida. The nomination period begins March 28, 2022, and runs for five weeks. Potential nominees are required to complete a USHBC nomination application and background form, then forward their **application on to the USHBC office by April 29, 2022**. A nomination packet is enclosed with this mailing (Note: additional applications are available on the USHBC website at [ushbc.blueberry.org/forms/](https://ushbc.blueberry.org/forms/)). Once the nomination period is closed, a ballot will be prepared for Florida listing all of its state nominees. Ballots will be mailed to Florida blueberry growers on June 10, 2022. The voting period will be open for 35 days, closing on July 15, 2022.

Those receiving the most votes for each state representative seat will be recommended to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as council members. Those who earn the second most votes for each state will be recommended as the alternate. The names of those who receive the third and fourth most votes will be sent on to the secretary for consideration.

Council members and alternates will serve a three-year term, January 1, 2023, and can **serve a maximum of two consecutive terms**. A member can serve as an alternate for the term they are not eligible to serve as a member, and an alternate can serve as a member for the term they are not eligible to serve as an alternate.

USHBC State Representatives completing their first term of office are Bill Braswell (Florida Member), Brittany Lee (Florida Alternate), Paul Macrie (New Jersey Member), Matthew Macrie (New Jersey Alternate), Michael Railey

(Georgia Alternate), Doug Krahmer (Oregon Member), Bryan Sakuma (Washington Member) and Brenton Roy (Washington Alternate).

USHBC state representatives concluding their second term of office are Bill Steed (California Member), John Bennett (Georgia Member), George Fritz Jr. (Michigan Member), Bob Carini (Michigan Alternate) and Neil Moore (North Carolina Member).

## USHBC Diversity Outreach Policy

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve 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, or marital or family status. The USHBC fully complies with any and all applicable federal, state and local equal employment opportunity statutes, ordinances and regulations, including, but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. 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.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

Please contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111 if you have questions concerning this nomination procedure or the final balloting process.