



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
CELIA R. GOULD
, Director

March 27, 2014

Idaho Hop Commission
c/o Diane Gooding Haas
23669 Batt Corner Road
Parma, ID 83660

Dear Ms. Haas,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the course of action the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has developed to investigate and further respond to the Idaho Hop Commission's (IHC) petition for rulemaking.

Director Gould's March 11, 2014, letter articulated the requirements for proceeding with a rulemaking petition related to the establishment of a plant quarantine under Idaho Code § 22-2012. To further investigate the need for quarantine, the ISDA will conduct a stakeholder meeting at the Boise ISDA office during the week of April 14, 2014. ISDA will notify you as soon as possible as to the specific date and time of that meeting.

The information gathered during the meeting will be valuable as ISDA works to complete an investigation in a timely manner. We strongly encourage the IHC to participate during the meeting by providing relevant information and presenting their concerns related to Powdery Mildew. In the course of gathering investigatory information, we plan to ask both IHC and other stakeholders invited to the meeting, to comment and advise ISDA on the following issues:

1. What is the level of threat posed by powdery mildew?
2. Can the threat be controlled by regular, negotiated rulemaking or nonquarantine measures?
3. How would the proposed rule affect commercial producers, recreational or ornamental hop growers, and organic producers?
4. Is industry aware of the fiscal impact posed by the proposed rule change?
5. What is the expectation of plant/product verification by the ISDA?
6. If rulemaking should occur, how will the cost of the program be paid?

After the stakeholder meeting and other related investigation, the ISDA will provide its findings in a report. When that report is complete, the ISDA will consult with the Governor's office and seek approval if rulemaking is to be conducted.

Ms. Diane Gooding Haas

March 27, 2014

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ISDA office, (208) 332-8620.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Knight", written in a cursive style.

Lloyd Knight

cc: Cally Younger, Office of the Governor
Anita Hamann, Division of Financial Management
ISDA Director's Office
ISDA Legal