

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of the more than 70 organizations representing specialty crop growers across the country that recently petitioned USDA to expedite a second round of payments under the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program, we thank you and President Trump for following through on your commitment to our growers. The additional \$1.3 billion in funding, which was previously announced on April 30, 2025, will provide a vital lifeline to the family farms that produce the safe, nutritious foods that more Americans should be consuming, as well as cultivate the trees, flowers and plants that play a vital role in the nation's health and wellbeing.

We cannot overstate the urgency of the situation for the family farms that produce specialty crops in all 50 states. These growers confront a host of unprecedented challenges that have similarly plagued our program crop colleagues. The Trump Administration's recent actions to expedite the distribution of this second round of MASC funding will help level the playing field and ensure the survival of the family farms that provide Americans with a reliable source of domestically produced fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and horticulture.

In addition to expediting Round 2 payments to our growers, we may need your help to resolve some outstanding concerns with the implementation of Round 1 payments, which occurred prior to you taking office. We continue to receive anecdotal reports that some growers have yet to receive their first payments or that they received a mere fraction of the amount they were entitled to receive. There may be a variety of explanations for these lingering issues, and we stand ready to work with you and the Farm Services Agency (FSA) to fix them.

Unlike other FSA-administered programs, however, there is no publicly available data about the MASC program's implementation, such as an online dashboard. With greater transparency regarding how MASC funds are being distributed, we should be able to better identify

problems and work with FSA to ensure that qualifying growers are receiving their appropriate amount of funds.

Again, we thank you and President Trump for expediting this critically important economic assistance and for your dedication to helping all of American agriculture.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Burns

President & CEO, International
Fresh Produce Association

Dave Puglia

President & CEO, Western Growers
Association

Mike Joyner

President, Florida Fruit & Vegetable
Association

Kam Quarles

CEO, National Potato Council