



U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council

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USHBC MEMO

To: Blueberry Industry Members
From: U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council
Date: December 17, 2018
RE: **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF STATE MEMBERS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTER and HANDLER MEMBER**

Current terms for USHBC State Members, as well as USHBC Importer #2, #3, #4, Exporter #2 and Handler Member, will close at the end of 2019. Nominations will be taking place over the next few months to fill these thirteen positions on the Council. **Nomination packets for USHBC State Member positions will be sent by the USHBC to growers in each state (applies only to states without a blueberry council or commission) this March.** 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 www.ushbc.org.

The USHBC state member nominations by growers in each state (applies only to states without a blueberry council or commission) will take place over a five-week period from March 11 to April 15, 2019. Please send your nominee information to the USHBC prior to the April 15 closing date. Nominations received after April 15 will not appear on the final printed USHBC ballot. States with a blueberry council or commission will nominate members and alternates to serve on the USHBC.

Following the nomination period, individual USHBC State Ballots will be sent to growers in each of the state on June 10, 2019. Ballots will list nominees from the state along with their candidate statement. Space will be available on the ballot to indicate any write-in candidate as well. 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 June 10 to July 15, 2019. State Members as well as Importer, Exporter and Handler Members will assume their USHBC positions starting January 1, 2020 for a three-year term.

The USHBC Industry Relations Committee will also be accepting nominees in 2019 to be considered by the Committee for the Importer #2, #3, #4 (1 member position each), Exporter #1* (1 member position) and Handler 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, 2020. The USHBC Industry Relations Committee will present a slate of nominees to the USHBC Executive Committee by February 4, 2019. The Council will then make final candidate selections at the USHBC Spring Meeting on March 8, 2019. At this meeting, the Council will recommend to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture a final list of candidates for member

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

and alternate, along with two additional candidates for each of these five positions for consideration by the Secretary for final appointment.

Blueberry industry members interested in being considered for the USHBC Importer, Exporter or Handler Member and Alternate positions are encouraged to contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111 and complete and send (or email to elections@blueberry.org) the *USHBC Importer, Exporter, Handler Member Nominee Application* (OMB No. 0581-0093) to the USHBC office no later than Monday, January 25, 2019.

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 if you have any questions concerning the USHBC or for more information about USHBC member or alternate positions.