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Testimony In Support of Proposal 2

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Federal Marketing Order 920

Waine Aalto, - Warmerdam; Kiwifruit Administrative Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 2008  
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Modesto California

## December 9, Testimony

### Proposal 2

#### Proposal 2: §920.22 **Nomination**; §920.26 **Vacancies**.

In order to further ensure the efficacy of nominating members and alternates to the Committee, it is imperative to alter the deadline so that ample time is available between the nomination and selection of a new Committee member. The current nomination deadline of July 15 does not allow enough time for Committee staff, newly elected members/alternates and USDA to process all of the necessary paperwork to receive approval by the Secretary and have the new Committee seated by August 1.

Holding nominations annually increases administrative costs, occupies Committee staff and USDA time, and can be disruptive to the flow of Committee business. This proposal would not alter the administrative or compliance costs to handlers or producers, nor would it have any negative effect on small business.

With respect to the vacancies change; in the past, the Committee, for various reasons, has suffered unexpected vacancies. With our only option being to go through the complete nomination and selection process, we have experienced troublesome interference with conducting Committee business. Authorizing this additional method for filling vacancies would continue to provide for fair and reasonable representation by producers on the Committee, while eliminating a somewhat cumbersome process to fill only one seat. It is important to note that all eligible candidates within a given district would be provided the same opportunity to serve as afforded through the current nomination process. As an added benefit, this change would eliminate unnecessary paperwork for producers and more generally benefit handlers and consumers in maintaining a continued orderly flow of Committee business.

In summation, these changes to both the nomination and vacancy rules would contribute to an orderly flow of Committee business, decrease paperwork by producers, and provide

for efficiencies in administration, all of which would contribute to helping the Committee accomplish marketing order objectives, resulting in higher grower returns.

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Thank you for your time.