

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Industry Relations Report By Todd Cornelison

Produce Industry lags behind in Number of Comments Submitted to Mexican Trucking Pilot Program as deadline looms

During the week of April 25th, the NPC hosted its annual State Managers meeting in Washington DC. During that event, there was a meeting held with Karen Antebi, Trade & NAFTA Office, Ministry of Economy - Embassy of Mexico, regarding the Department of Transportation's pilot program to allow Mexican domiciled trucks into the U.S. In that meeting, it was discovered that the teamsters have submitted over 100 negative comments on the DOT pilot program. We are now in desperate need of your help to provide positive comments for the program. Many of the State and National organizations including NPC, IPC and IGSA have already submitted comments.

Currently the docket has registered 152 comments:

- Background - 9
- Positive - 24
- Negative - 118
- Neutral - 1

It is imperative that we do our part to change these numbers. Please share your views with DOT; The comment deadline is May 13, we urge you to take action on this matter.

To Submit Comments

Use this link: <http://www.regulations.gov/#documentDetail:D=FMCSA-2011-0097-0001>

Example comment:

"I am a farmer/manufacturer/service provider whose livelihood has been directly and negatively impacted by the punitive tariffs imposed on sales to Mexico as a result of the cross-border trucking dispute. The proposed pilot program represents a fair, safe, measured – and long overdue - resolution to this long-standing problem. It will ensure that the U.S. meets its legal obligations to Mexico, while providing the safe, secure highway environment that Americans like me demand and deserve. Please move forward with all due speed to finalize the underlying agreement, and implement the pilot program, so that I can go back to the business of creating jobs and growth here in the United States."

Calendar

May

- 2-4 United Fresh Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA
- 3 United of Idaho Board Meeting
- 12-13 IPC Meeting, Eagle, ID
- 13 NASS Report: Stocks and Processing to May 1.
- 14 Annual IPC Marathon, Boise, ID
- 18 USPB Webinar: Eliminating Barriers to Fresh Potato Sales, Noon-1:30 p.m. CST

June

- 7 United of Idaho Board Meeting
- 10 NASS Report: Stocks and Processing to June 1.

- 13-17 IPC Foodservice Whistlestop Tour
- 14-15 IPC Meeting, Eagle, ID
- 22-24 NPC Summer Meeting, Grand Forks ND. Click here for Registration information: <http://bit.ly/eCxRR9>
- 27-1 IPC Retail Whistlestop Tour

July

- 11-14 USPB Summer Meeting, Columbus, OH
- 26-27 IPC Meeting, Eagle, ID
- 27-1 IPC Retail Whistlestop Tour, Eastern Idaho
- 29-31 PMA Foodservice Convention, Monterey, CA