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April 9, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor  
State of Texas  
PO Box 308  
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Governor Abbott,

As you are aware Texan ports of entry are key to feeding North America with wholesome fresh fruits and vegetables. Over \$9 billion dollars' worth of produce is traded through Texas. The recent rule "Texas Border Truck Inspection Enforcement Action" has severely impacted the trade through your State.

We agree that safety and security are paramount, which is why the inspections of commercial trucks by U.S. Customs and Border Protection are considered to be the best in the world. Texas has some of the most secure Commercial Ports of Entry anywhere along the U.S. border. Officers use sophisticated technology to see through the trailers and catch illicit cargo and prevent human smuggling.

Adding an additional Texas DPS inspection once trucks have crossed the border is causing serious delays with no commensurate increase in border safety.

Unfortunately, delays from DPS inspections mean that up to 80% of perishable fruits and vegetables have been unable to cross daily. This is causing losses of millions of dollars a day for employers and employees who have been idled. Trucks are waiting over 24 hours to cross the border. Customers are unable to load product from their Texas suppliers. Transportation shortages are increasing as available trucks are stuck waiting in line to cross the border.

Food shortages will rise as we head into Easter. Trucks are running out of diesel fuel to run refrigerated units on the trailers, resulting in catastrophic damage to highly perishable fresh fruits and vegetables. This means that even when a truck is able to cross the border eventually, the product could be damaged significantly.

If DPS inspections stopped today, it would take over a week for the supply chain to return to normal. Unfortunately, the loss of inventory, freshness, and sales will never be recovered, and these losses are a direct economic loss to Texas companies, and lost sales to their customers around North America.



The FPAA is advising all of its members to divert all shipments, when possible, to border crossings without these uncertain delays that are damaging supply chains.

For the sake of the many American families and especially those in Texas who are counting on healthful fresh fruits and vegetables for the Easter Holiday, and on behalf of Texas businesses who not only are employers but also keep the economy of the state going, and count on being able to efficiently and predictably move their goods, we ask you to reconsider the state Department of Public Safety inspections of fresh produce trucks occurring in Texas ports of entry, especially in Pharr.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LJ", is positioned below a horizontal line.

Lance Jungmeyer  
President  
The Fresh Produce Association of the Americas