



SEP 17 2012

Dear Conference Participant:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent attendance and participation at the 2012 Agriculture Stakeholders Conference in Riverdale, Maryland. The conference provided us with welcomed feedback on how we are doing as your Federal partners and provided a forum for state and industry leaders to address concerns about the agriculture mission.

During the plenary and break-out sessions, we received input on how to build upon established stakeholder communication methods and how to improve our outreach efforts. Through these sessions we were also able to identify several best practices and some specific areas that need improvement. Our teams have already begun to look at how this information can help us to improve future agriculture operations and strengthen our delivery of the agriculture-safeguarding mission.

Throughout the conference, we emphasized the importance of safeguarding American agriculture through collaboration. Given the current budget environment and the ever-increasing scope of our mission, it is important that we continue to work closely together to maximize the effectiveness of our resources and look for new opportunities to move the agriculture program forward.

Once again, we thank you for your participation in 2012 Conference and for your ongoing partnership in safeguarding our Nation's agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. McAleenan".

Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Bech".

Rebecca Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine
U.S. Department of Agriculture