



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 19 2010

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary LaHood in which you urged the U.S. Department of Transportation to support the BioPreferred program. The Secretary asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Department supports your initiatives in this area. Our Senior Procurement Executive communicated the importance of this initiative to the Department's acquisition workforce on October 6. Consistent with your request, the enclosed memorandum was forwarded to each Chief of the Contracting Office who then forwarded to the acquisition workforce.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brodi Fontenot".

Brodi Fontenot
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure



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ACTION: BioPreferred Programs

Willie H. Smith
Acting, Senior Procurement Executive
Office of the Secretary

Chief of the Contracting Office (COCO)

As discussed in the recent Strategic Acquisition Council meeting, there continues to be a strong emphasis on green procurement activity. Consistent with that message the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports the BioPreferred Program, a government-wide effort to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. By participating in the BioPreferred Program, the DOT can address three important efforts: (1) climate change impact reduction; (2) energy and environmental security; and (3) economic development.

Federal Agency participation in this program is mandated by law and the Federal Acquisition Regulation. On October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) of the Executive Order establishes Federal Government requirements for sustainable acquisition. The purchase of biobased products is expressly cited as one way to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our environment.

In an attempt to ensure departmental compliance with the above, please ensure that (1) all procurement personnel in the Operating Administration are trained and educated on the importance of this program and the mandatory requirement to purchase and use biobased products; (2) this program be discussed with each senior level procurement leader; and (3) all DOT solicitations contain biobased language and clauses. Contracting officials should incorporate existing FAR 23 clauses as appropriate. The DOT is being judged on how we implement the BioPreferred Program and we have to provide data to show our progress. There is a requirement to provide the Office of the Senior Procurement Executive (OSPE) information on the number and dollar value of solicitations awarded that contain biobased language and/or clauses and the number of contracts that were awarded to BioPreferred vendors. Request this information be collected and provided to the OSPE by close of business on October 30, 2010.

The Department of Agriculture, which is the lead Agency for the Federal Government, has designated a total of 42 biobased items (product categories) representing nearly 5,600 individual products for Federal procurement. Tools and resources are readily available at www.biopREFERRED.gov. They include: the BioPreferred catalog, model contract templates, free web-based training model green sources selection evaluation factors, and procurement forecast with biobased icon.

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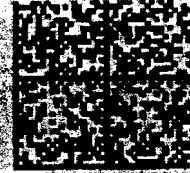
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