

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

The U.S. pecan industry is a significant leader in the global nut market, with a crop value of approximately \$460 million. In 2023, the U.S. produced 441,000 acres of pecans and harvested 271 million pounds¹. The pecan market is expected to grow to \$3.64 billion by 2034². Georgia continues to be the leading state for U.S. pecan production, contributing to the U.S.'s leading position in the global market. The United States makes up 80 percent of the global pecan industry; 28 percent of U.S. pecans are exported to the world market³.

As you may know, India is a significant foreign market for U.S. pecans. In 2022, the United States exported more than \$1.3 million of pecans to India, and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service projects that pecan exports to India could now reach up to \$5 million annually⁴. This is a result of successful efforts in advocating for India to cut its tariff on U.S. pecan exports by 70 percent, which opened a market of more than one billion consumers to premium U.S.-grown pecans. Previously, pecans lacked a unique Harmonized System (HS) code, subjecting them to the higher tariff in the "nuts, others" category. This change made by the Indian government further facilitates and strengthens the trade-ties between the United States and India in the pecan market.

While U.S. pecan exporters are now successfully exporting shelled pecans to India, the product purchasers in India have requested the U.S. to export in-shell pecans, which enables the pecans to travel in a more shelf-stable state and allows buyers to finish processing upon arrival in India. However, shipments of U.S. in-shell pecans cannot be completed due to the lack of appropriate plant quarantine code (PQ code) for import into India. To address this, India has stated that the U.S. government must submit a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) report to obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate and PQ code⁵. Once the U.S. has submitted the required documents to India, India's Dried Fruit and Nut Council has elected to advocate to the Indian government for a swift solution.

In 2024, the U.S. pecan industry submitted documents to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to begin the process of obtaining a PQ code, and we write to request assistance from USDA in expediting the process for completing the PRA request with PQ form 23 and PQ form 24 as provided here, (<https://pqms.cgg.gov.in/pqms-angular/homeGuidelines/Import>), by the Indian government. Efficient

¹ <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/5425kg32f/nv936p236/00001m546/pecnpr24.pdf>

² <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2023/12/07/2792248/0/en/Pecan-Market-is-Anticipated-to-Attain-US-3-64-Billion-at-a-CAGR-of-6-1-by-2034-Fact-MR-Report.html>

³ <https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/nuts/pecans>

⁴ <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/india-success-story-its-been-tough-nut-crack-india-all-pecans-tariff-reduction>

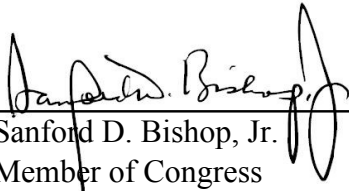
⁵ [https://upload.indiacode.nic.in/showfile?actid=AC_CEN_23_31_00008_191402_1523342057238&type=notification&filename=0-pq-order-1322\(e\)-2003.pdf](https://upload.indiacode.nic.in/showfile?actid=AC_CEN_23_31_00008_191402_1523342057238&type=notification&filename=0-pq-order-1322(e)-2003.pdf)

completion of India's import requirements is essential to the success of the pecan industry in Georgia and across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we welcome opportunities to assist in determining a solution for the pecan industry as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,




Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



David Scott
Member of Congress