



# MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

*Leading the Way to Port Progress*

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May 29, 2020

Regulatory Analysis and Development  
PPD APHIS  
Station 3A-03.8  
4700 River Road, Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

**Re.: Docket No. APHIS-2019-0049 Notice: Import Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Blueberries From Chile Into the United States**

To the Docket:

This letter, written on behalf of the approximate 300 members of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, expresses our strong support for APHIS' above-referenced Notice allowing the importation of fresh blueberries from Chile under Systems Approach protocols, protocols which APHIS has previously used successfully with Chilean fruit imports. Chilean blueberries already enter the U.S. under Methyl Bromide treatment and this Notice, if approved, would allow the use of alternative mitigation measures for importation of this fruit.

The Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, a nonprofit trade association, is the leading advocate for port and related businesses in the tristate region. The Exchange mission is to protect and promote the Delaware River commercial maritime industry.

The Delaware River port complex is a major economic generator and regional infrastructure component. Additional cargos into our ports benefits the creation of jobs that in turn, fosters greater regional revenues. Because Chilean blueberries are available counter-seasonally when the U.S. does not have local production, adoption of the proposed Notice would allow our regional consumers access to this desirable and high-quality fruit during a period of limited domestic supply. Chilean fruit is a long-standing and critical Delaware River cargo; we stand ready to receive this additional blueberry cargo.

We urge APHIS to adopt this Notice so that next season, Chile can export blueberries from the Nuble and Biobio regions under a Systems Approach.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Feel free to contact me at 215-925-2615 or at [dennis.rochford@maritimedelriv.com](mailto:dennis.rochford@maritimedelriv.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rochford  
President

cc: Lisa Himber