

NATIONAL LEAFY GREENS MARKETING AGREEMENT - Testimony

My name is Alan Luke

My current address is: 3510 W. 13th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

My position in the Leafy Greens Industry currently is Vice President – Southern District for D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California. I have been in this position for ~15 years, in the produce industry for 19+ years, and in agriculture for ~32 years.

D'Arrigo Bros. grow and handle the following types of leafy greens: head lettuce, romaine, green leaf, red leaf, and butter lettuces. As a grower of leafy greens we would be classified as large. As a handler of leafy greens we would be classified as large. We grow these leafy greens using conventional practices.

My testimony is in support of the National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.

D'Arrigo Bros. implemented the CLGMA program in Yuma, AZ and the Imperial Valley of California in February 2007 on all D'Arrigo produce crops. In October 2007 we switched the Arizona grown crops over to the AZLGMA program. We have found that the LGMA matrix is based on science and common sense. You can follow and understand the scientific process behind the matrix, it makes common sense, and it is doable.

As we have follow the LGMA matrix in the production and handling of leafy greens, it is our belief that we are delivering a safer product into the market place. With written guidelines and procedures for implementing the matrix, documentation, and audits [self and 3rd party] , we are effectively increasing the safety of our leafy greens.

Our experience with the LGMA has been positive and we believe that a national program will bring increased food safety as well as standardization in growing and handling to our industry. As a result of our experience and beliefs, we would like to go on record in support of a National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.