



GROWN WITH PRIDE . . .

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Testimony of Maureen J. Torrey NATIONAL LEAFY GREENS MARKETING Agreement Hearings

October 20, 2009
Syracuse, New York

Good Morning. I am Maureen J. Torrey, and I am Vice President of Torrey Farms, Inc. Torrey Farms, Inc. is a 12th generation farm which has been located in Western New York for over 200 years.

Torrey Farms, Inc. grows over 6,000 acres of vegetables with about 900 acres of cabbage as our only leafy green.

Our farm has always been a strong supporter and participant of the best and safest farming practices in growing our commodities for market.

We are pleased that if the USDA moves forward on the NLGMA agreement that it is voluntary and not mandatory, that there are no exemptions for size of farms or if conventional or organic.

I do question the makeup of the zones in the NLGMA. I wonder if it wouldn't be more feasible to put states that have an extended cold period together as their growing practices are more compatible then with states that don't experience extended cold periods.

I feel that if the zones were changed it would help us more easily develop regionally flexible metrics that would be more matched to the growing regions.

I also feel that the cost to implement the NLGMA on our farm will be minimal as we are already in conformance with the FDA's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP).

In concluding I would like to firmly state that we are a strong proponent for the NLGMA and feel that as we are so many generations away from the farm it is a way to insure the consumer that their food supply is safe and that the best practices are being used on the farms.

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