



Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.

Office of the President

Representing Cotton Growers Throughout

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May 16, 2001

Ms. Whitney Rick, Chief
Research and Promotion Staff
Cotton Program
AMS / USDA, Stop 0224
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Room 2641-S South Building
Washington, DC 20250-0224

Dear Ms. Rick:

Southern Cotton Growers wishes to submit for the record the following comments as they pertain to the decision of whether or not USDA will determine that a referendum is warranted for the continuation of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act. Southern Cotton Growers is the organization that represents every cotton producer in the six states that comprise the Southeast region. We are also one of the Certified Producer Organizations that nominates persons to serve on the Cotton Board.

The combined efforts of Cotton Board and their contract agency, Cotton Incorporated is the main reason why domestic consumption of cotton continues at a record pace. Producers are very much aware of this track record and shudder at the thought of where the industry might be today if it were not for their highly successful promotion and research initiatives. This is the program by which every other commodity strives to duplicate.

Southern Cotton Growers strongly supports continuation for the amendments to the Act of 1990 and to forgo any expenses that might be incurred through a referendum. Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

Roy Baxley, President
Southern Cotton Growers