January 29, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling
Agriculture Marketing Service USDA
Attn. William J. Sessions, Associate Deputy Administrator
Stop 0249 Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Ave S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions,

I grow 450 acres of pecans in Peach County, Georgia. We are a family farm trying to survive difficult times. Pecans are the key to our survival.

We produce a superior product that is compliant with the environmental and food safety regulations of this country. Country of Origin labeling for pecans will allow the consumer to decide between pecans grown (at a higher cost) under the progressive safety regulations, or foreign pecans grown under more casual regulatory inspection.

Country of Origin labeling for pecans will benefit the consumer and help us stay in business.

Sincerely,
Charles A. Vinson