

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

October 31, 2023

The Honorable Troy A. Miller
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner Miller,

Georgia's pecan industry continues to lead the nation and compete in the global marketplace. In 2021, the American Pecan Promotion Board (APPB) was established to promote U.S. pecans in the marketplace. The APPB is funded in part by assessments on imported pecans that are equal to the assessments that U.S. growers pay on domestically produced pecans. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has an important role to play in collecting these assessments to support this industry.

CBP is charged with collecting assessments on imported pecans to finance the Pecan Research and Promotion Program. This program, administered by the American Pecan Promotion Board, helps bolster the market position of U.S. pecans and funds essential research and promotion activities that support the domestic pecan industry.

Effective implementation of this program is essential to the success of the pecan industry in Georgia and across our nation, and the most efficient collection of import assessments is through CBP. However, this cannot occur until CBP implements its new automatic collection system, which has been delayed on multiple occasions. I therefore urge you to stand up the new system as soon as possible.

In addition, I ask that you provide a response to the following questions:

1. What, if any, technical barriers remain to implementing the new automatic collection system for pecans?
2. What steps will CBP take to support the pecan industry to collect outstanding assessments that have been delayed since 2021?
3. Can you confirm that the program will be running by early November?

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

OSSOFF.SENATE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this program, and please contact my office immediately if you foresee any further delays. I look forward to working together to expand opportunities for Georgia's pecan industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator