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December 3, 2015

Mr. Henry Jennings
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Jennings,

The Maine Migrant Health Program (MMHP) and Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) would like to provide an update to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control of a continued collaborative effort to deliver EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) education to Maine's farmworkers during the 2016 harvest season.

The outcome of this collaborative outreach effort has been possible through language proficiency, notably in Spanish and Creole, in serving the migrant population in Maine. Staff are flexible in accommodating the timing and locations requested by growers to ensure that migrant farmworkers across the entire state have access to this education about pesticide safety in the fields and risks of take home exposure in addition to heat stress concerns.

In 2015, through support of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, MMHP and EMDC collaborated to hire a staff person to deliver WPS trainings in the southern/central region of the state during June, Aroostook county in July, and midcoast Maine and Washington county in August. During 2015, this individual offered WPS education to a total of 308 farmworkers across the state. The table below breaks down, by service category, important outcomes in 2015 completed by this staff person.

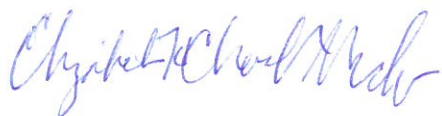
Worker Protection Standard Trainings	308
Take Home Exposure Trainings	308
Heat Stress Trainings	310
Total	926

MMHP and EMDC are aware that EPA rules are moving toward requiring growers to provide annual WPS trainings to their farmworkers instead of every 5 years. This will hopefully incentivize growers to engage this staff person for all workers on an annual basis instead of only those who need to renew their training. Additionally, the staff member will also be trained in providing Tractor Safety education which is hoped to be a means of engaging additional growers in participating in this educational programming for themselves and their farmworkers.

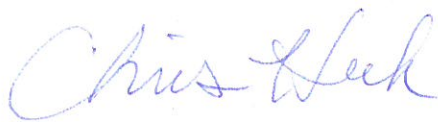
For 2016, the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) has committed \$3,048 to EMDC and MMHP in support of WPS training. EMDC and MMHP plan to use these funds to recruit one summer Pesticide Safety Training staff member who will provide direct services to farmworkers in Aroostook County, Midcoast, and DownEast areas of the state. To help support this position, we request from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control a contribution of \$3,675 (a 5% increase over previous years) which we would leverage with the funds from AFOP. Total funds would be used to directly support hourly wage of the staff person, as well as travel required to reach farmworkers, growers and partners. We request that the funding be made directly to MMHP.

We thank the Board for its past support and for considering this current proposal. To contact the Maine Migrant Health Program, you are welcome to email Elizabeth (echarles@mainemigrant.org) or call at 207-441-1633. For more information regarding Eastern Maine Development Corporation or the AFOP Health and Safety program, please feel free to contact Chris by email (chuh@emdc.org) or phone (207-610-1521). We look forward to meeting with the Board to discuss this opportunity.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Charles McGough
Director of Outreach
Maine Migrant Health Program



Christopher Huh, MPA
Program Manager
Farmworker Jobs Program
Eastern Maine Development Corporation