

## Gibbs, Jansen AGRI:EX

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**From:** aaron\_bregg@associatedgrocers.ca  
**Sent:** August 21, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** Gorsuch, Wanda AGRI:EX  
**Subject:** FW: BCFIRB Vegetable Review Invitation to Consult

**Importance:** High

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Good Day,

I am writing to you today to offer my thoughts on the BCFIRB Vegetable Review Invitation.

### ***BCFIRB questions for industry***

1. An effective regulated marketing system requires trust and agreement to abide by the Commission rules.

What does the Commission need to do to build that essential level of trust and to build a stronger common interest in supporting its policies and rules for the benefit of the industry as a whole?

In my opinion, Communication leads to trust. I would encourage the commission to get out and meet with their members to better understand the needs. As a Wholesaler, we are forced to be a member, in my 18 years of Produce Wholesaling I have had one meeting with the Commission. That meeting took place this year.

2. Does the use of panels and advisory committees result in sound decision making by the Commission? Please explain.

a) If no, what more does the Commission need to do to make sound decisions and manage perception of bias and conflict of interest challenges?

Yes – Panels & Advisory committees can help in sound decision making. I would prefer to see a structural change, as a Wholesaler, we don't have any representation on the board. We are forced to be a member of a Commission without the ability to have representation.

3. How could the industry benefit from the Commission adding independent member(s)? a) What are the risks?

I would prefer to see a change to the structure. I don't feel we need to have an independent member. I feel the commission would benefit from having a proper representation of all companies on the commission. I would like to see a Wholesaler Seat open up on the board to bring a different perspective to the conversation.

4. If BCFIRB recommends to the Minister of Agriculture that the Scheme be changed to include the addition of an independent member(s), should the member be appointed by government or industry? Please explain.

a) What skills and expertise you think independent member(s) should have?

I would like to see BCFIRB add an additional Board Position of a Wholesaler before exploring the need for independent members.

5. Commission positions go uncontested during the annual elections and there is little turnover in membership.

What are the risks and benefits to the sector when there is a lack of board turnover?

a) If you see this as a problem, what are the possible solutions?

The reason you see little turnover is due to the mandatory rule of being a member of BCVEG. A Lack of Turnover on a Board can create trust issues. Members like myself who don't have representation on the board have to look from the outside in.

A potential solution to a lack of turnover can be a Term Limit for a Board Member. Many other organizations have term limits for Board Members.

I would be happy to answer any follow up questions you may have regarding my comments.

Thanks,

**Aaron D. Bregg**

Vice President, Supply Chain

Buy-Low Foods | Associated Grocers | Westcoast Produce Wholesalers

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**From:** Suzanne Babcock <[suzanne@bcveg.com](mailto:suzanne@bcveg.com)>

**Sent:** July-10-20 2:24 PM

**To:** Andre Solymosi <[asolymosi@bcveg.com](mailto:asolymosi@bcveg.com)>; [debbie@singletreewinery.com](mailto:debbie@singletreewinery.com)

**Cc:** Suzanne Babcock <[suzanne@bcveg.com](mailto:suzanne@bcveg.com)>

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**Attention: Regulated vegetable industry members**

The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) is asking for your input on:

- Vegetable Commission Structure
- Agency Accountability
- Storage Crop Delivery Allocation

For Background Information and Questions see the attached Consultation Document.

**You are invited to provide written submissions by August 19, 2020 to BCFIRB. Please send your submissions to [Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca)**

The BCFIRB supervisory panel is meeting with members of the regulated vegetable industry and other interested parties who asked to be contacted.

**The panel will post a “What We Heard” summary of its consultation meetings on BCFIRB’s web page prior to August 19 to allow for any comments via written submission.**

*Written submissions will be posted on [BCFIRB’s web page](#) to ensure a transparent, fair and accountable process. You are responsible in the first instance for telling BCFIRB if, in your view, the information you are providing is confidential. The panel will assess the information and reasons for confidentiality before determining if or how the information should be disclosed.*

Following the consultation meetings, the panel will determine and communicate what next steps (including further consultations and meetings) are needed to complete the Vegetable Review and to lift the moratorium on agency and producer-shipper licence applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Wanda Gorsuch, Manager of Issues & Planning at [Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca) or 778-974-5790.

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