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January 16, 2019

Elena Guilfoil  
Air Quality Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47800  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Guilfoil:

Far West Agribusiness Association (FWAA) is a 60-year-old trade organization representing approximately 125 business members who are retailers, wholesalers, brokers, applicators, manufacturers, and equipment providers within the crop input industry. These include fertilizers, crop protection products, agronomic services, soil amendments, micronutrients, biologicals and seed suppliers. Our geographic area is Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Nevada. We provide legislative, regulatory and continuing educational services to our members and the industry. In addition, we administer the Certified Crop Adviser program for the five states mentioned plus Alaska and a Canadian Province, British Columbia.

Our organization, through our members has an abundant amount of knowledge and experience with various products and their uses which are used to enhance crop production offering a sustainable and economical food supply for markets both domestically and abroad.

As you may know, Far West tracks issues that effect our industry within our trade area and in January, 2015, it was brought to our attention that Ammonium Sulfate (AMS) was listed as a toxic air pollutant (TAP) within the Department of Ecology (DOE) in Washington State. In April, 2015, FWAA contacted DOE and began inquiries, an exchange of letters and what followed to be a series of meetings and conversations. Our communications centered around the listing and the basis for its inclusion over a period of nearly four years. Our Association worked with our members and hired outside sources to educate us about the specifics related to any potential toxicity or air quality issues related to this product that might exist. We have shared said information and materials with DOE and informally requested AMS to be removed from the TAP list and that in our opinion, its inclusion was unwarranted. Although DOE agreed that they would consider a review, no specific date or time could be provided due to other more pressing issues within the department. As a result, FWAA hired legal counsel and initiated a formal petition for DOE to begin the rules process, a necessary step to follow before AMS could be removed from the TAP list.

While the process has been lengthy, has required hours of staff time and has been expensive, we do very much appreciate the time and expense that DOE has spent in conducting their review. We appreciate the multiple tours of loading and mixing facilities along with the recent stakeholder meeting held December 10, 2018 in Kennewick, Washington. We remain hopeful that we are near a resolution.

We do believe that an error was made when AMS was included in the TAP list. We have provided the facts, information and input necessary for DOE to make their decision and we look forward to the February 21, 2019 meeting when DOE's recommendation and or decision will be shared. If there is any additional information or clarity required, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James F. Fitzgerald", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

James F. Fitzgerald  
Executive Director