



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 2, 2014

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I am writing to request a Secretarial Disaster Designation for three counties in the State of South Carolina for peach crop losses following freeze conditions in March and April of this year: Cherokee, Greenville, and Spartanburg Counties.

As documented by numerous local and national weather stations, freezing temperatures in South Carolina occurred when much of our peach crop was in the 50% bloom stage and, later, in the shuck split and shuck off stage. Specifically, farmers in Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties suffered a loss of 50% of their peach crop, and farmers in Greenville County suffered a loss of 35% of their peach crop. Should you approve my request, the affected farmers would be eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans, helping to mitigate these significant losses.

If my office may be of further assistance, please contact Rebecca Schimsa, Deputy Legal Counsel, at 803.429.4561 or rebeccaschimsa@gov.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/rss

cc: Commissioner Hugh E. Weathers, South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Director Harry L. Ott, Jr., South Carolina State Farm Service Agency
David Winkles, South Carolina Farm Bureau, President and Chief Executive Officer