January 31, 2018

**TO:** All Independent Raisin Producers

**SUBJECT:** Nomination meetings for independent producer seats.

1. Independent producers’ member/alternate seats for the 2018/2020 RAC term based on deliveries for the 2016/17 crop year will be a total of 16 seats.

District 1 – North of Fresno County will have 1 member / 1alternate

District 2 – South of Fresno County will have 1 member / 1alternate

District 3 – Fresno County will have 14 members / 14 alternates

1. Nominations for independent producer seats will be accepted for a full 60 minutes as follows:

District 1 - **Friday, February 16, 2018 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

 The Vineyard Restaurant

 605 South “I” Street

 Madera, CA

District 2 - **Friday, February 16, 2018 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

 Wyndham Visalia (in the lobby)

 9000 West Airport Drive

 Visalia, CA

District 3 - **Friday, February 16, 2018 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

 RAC Conference Room

 2445 Capitol Street, Suite 200

Fresno, CA

(If you are being nominated, it is your option to submit a brief, one paragraph statement about yourself and your interest in serving on the RAC. This information is needed by 5:00 p.m. on February 22nd to prepare the ballots.)

Subsequent to these meetings:

Ballots will be mailed to all independent producers recording 2016/17 deliveries for them to vote for independent producers to represent them on the RAC. To qualify, to nominate, and vote (989.129) as an independent grower member, you must own, or be a person who is engaged in a proprietary capacity which produced grapes which have been or will be made into raisins during the current crop year. To qualify to serve (989.27) as an independent grower member you must be actively engaged in a business of the group, which he/she represents in either his/her own behalf, or as an officer, agent, or an employee of a business entity, which produced grapes that have been or will be made into raisins during the current crop year. Additionally, to qualify as an independent grower, you must not be a member of the RBA, Sun-Maid, nor sold your raisins for cash to Sun-Maid during the current crop year.

**Nominations will only be accepted from qualified persons attending the meeting.**

The RAC offers the opportunity for all segments of the California raisin industry to be represented and invites qualified women, minorities, and physically challenged candidates to attend district nomination meetings and express their intent in membership. We ask that you be mindful of the USDA’s policy on Civil Rights and consider all eligible persons for membership on the Committee.

Ballots will be mailed by March 9, 2018 and will need to be postmarked by Friday, March 30, 2018. Questionnaires will be provided to those nominated, by USDA, either by email or mail.

RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

 Debbie Powell

 President / General Manager

cc: Kathie Notoro, USDA

DP/mj