TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

September 14, 2009

Mr. Rob Coleman
Government Relations Specialist
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
111 East 17th Street, 8th Floor
Austin, TX 78774

Ms. Ursula Parks
Assistant Director
Legislative Budget Board
1501 North Congress, 5th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Ms. Katherine Stout
Director of Budget, Planning & Policy
Office of the Governor
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Coleman, Ms. Parks, and Ms. Stout:

In my official capacity as Deputy Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (the "Agency"), an agency of the State of Texas that receives funds appropriated under Article XII of the General Appropriations Act of the 81st Legislative Session (the "Act"), I hereby certify to the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor, and the Comptroller of Public Accounts that:

- Members of the Agency's executive staff and I have knowledge of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") law and related federal agency actions affecting the ARRA.
- The Agency has implemented internal controls, processes and procedures designed to ensure that the Agency's use of ARRA funds appropriated to the Agency under Article XII of the Act is in compliance with applicable federal and state law (including Article XII of the Act), rules, regulations, and guidance.
- In accordance with the responsibility placed upon this Agency and to the best of my knowledge, the use of or planned use of the funds appropriated to the Agency under Article XII of the Act is in compliance with applicable federal law, state law, rules, regulations, and guidance.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Heather Griffith Peterson at (512) 463-3640.

Sincerely,

Drew DeBerry
Deputy Commissioner

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