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## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** August 10, 2008

**TO:** USCC Market Development Committee, USCC Executive Committee, and Dr. Stuart Buckner, Executive Director

**FROM:** Ron Alexander (RAA), USCC Market Development Committee & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO

**RE:** Update from the AAPFCO Annual Meeting

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The recent AAPFCO meeting in Nashville went very well, overall, for the world of organically based products.

### *Uniform Bills Committee*

The Uniform Bills Committee met to discuss a variety of subjects, with the only one relevant to the composting industry being the work completed on the draft of the upgraded Soil Amendment Bill (completed at a previous meeting in Nashville). We can report with great pleasure that the Mulch & Soil Council's Executive Director did not attend the AAPFCO meeting, therefore, no further objections were made regarding the 'Rules and Regulations for Bulk Compost'.

### *Soil Amendment Subcommittee*

*(of the Uniform Bill's Committee)*

During the meeting, we continued our detailed review and rewrite of the proposed language for the upgraded Soil Amendment Bill. The process continues to progress, and the list of approved 'compost claims' (from the Uniform Compost Bill) is still included within its language. The only negative occurrence was a proposal to remove the ability for compost to make a generic microbial claim ('supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media'). This move coincides with the ability within the Bill to make specific microbial claims, guaranteeing a minimum content (expressed in viable CFU content per gram) and identifying the microbe by genus and species. Although the removal of this claim is likely (and may affect the similar claim in the Uniform Fertilizer Bill Rules and Regulations) the second microbial claim ('aids in the proliferation of soil microorganisms') is likely to be left in the Bill.

### *Labeling and Terms Committee*

The USCC was on the committee agenda and presented (through RAA) a draft definition for anaerobic digestate products. Following the presentation, positive discussions ensued and we were asked to revise the definition (if appropriate) and present again at the next meeting in February. A definition for 'compost

extract (tea) was also presented at the committee meeting. It was approved after discussion, and was sent to the AAPFCO Board with a request to have it placed in 'tentative' status. Finally, a presentation was made to allow claims similar to those outlined in the Uniform Compost Bill to be allowed for use by fertilizer manufacturers using organic matter based feedstocks and fillers in their products. This proposal was sent to subcommittee for further technical review.

### **By-Products & Recycled Products Subcommittee**

*(of the Environmental Affairs Committee)*

The By-Products & Recycled Products Subcommittee met to discuss a variety of subjects, with only one being relevant to the composting industry. The USCC (through RAA) was asked to complete a presentation on 'Future Recycled Materials and By-Products – What are we seeing on the horizon?' RAA completed the presentation focusing on organically based products, discussing products that could be registered as soil amendments, fertilizers, liming agents and animal feeds.