Contact Name

Organisation

Address

Address

Address

Date

Environmental Protection Agency,

Private Bag 63002

Wellington 6140

**Via email:** submissions@epa.govt.nz

**Re: Submission on Application Number: APP201955**

**Application to release the psyllid parasitoid Tamarixia triozae (the wasp) to kill the tomato potato psyllid or TPP (Bactericera cockerelli).**

I do / do not wish to keep my contact details confidential.

I/We support the application by the industries represented by Horticulture NZ Inc, that is Potatoes New Zealand Inc, Tomatoes NZ, Vegetables NZ Inc, Heinz-Wattie’s NZ Ltd, and NZ Tamarillo Growers Association Inc to release from containment the parasitoid Tamarixia triozae to assist with the biological control of the tomato potato psyllid (Bactericera cockerelli).

The release of Tamarixia as a BCA will benefit our business and the wider community in both economic and environmental terms for a variety of reasons as follows:

* The release of Tamarixia will reduce our crop losses by improved control of TPP and reduction in the transmission of the bacterium Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (CLSo), the causal agent of Zebra Chip disease. We estimate that since TPP became established our business has suffered crop losses per year of ????%. Our yields have been down ??% which has resulted in approxmately $??? in lost earnings.
* Achieving improved crop quality and production (yields), along with the production of higher quality crops and the resulting increased $/kg for crops will benefit the whole community through staff wages, investment in capital machinery and on-going support of our local service providers.
* Our business currently employs ??? direct staff, utilises the services of ?? local consultants/professionals along with spending approximately $??? per year within the region on equipment and other services.
* Tamarixia will also result in a reduction in production costs particularly around the application of pesticides which is currently $??/ha per year more than before TPP became established. Tamarixia will allow a return to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices which are beneficial to our staff and the environment. The money saved can be used for additional staff and increased investment back into the local economy.
* Improved environmental outcomes will also come through a reduction in reliance on broad spectrum insecticides and the use of selective chemistry that is compatible with IPM which will benefit the whole community.
* Tamarixia will allow us to pursue improved opportunities for export growth as the presence of TPP and the resulting disease CLSo currently limits our access to fresh potato export markets. The potato industry's 2013 strategic plan aims to double the value of fresh and processed New Zealand based exports by 2025 which is heavily reliant on gaining export market access.

From a community perspective use of Tamarixia to control TPP will result in increased employment opportunities, contribution to the growth of local and regional economies that support the horticulture industry. For example, it will provide our business the potential to employ ?? additional staff in the next 5 years.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means that you can speak at the hearing)

Or

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission (this meanst that you cannot speak at the hearing)

**In summary:**

I wish for the EPA to allow the industries represented by Horticulture NZ Inc, that is Potatoes New Zealand Inc, Tomatoes NZ, Vegetables NZ Inc, Heinz-Wattie’s NZ Ltd, and NZ Tamarillo Growers Association Inc. to release from containment the parasitoid Tamarixia triozae to assist with the biological control of the tomato potato psyllid (Bactericera cockerelli).

Yours sincerely,

Name

Title

**Organisation**

Phone:

Email: