



March 18, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brendon Rocky and I am the third generation owner of Rocky Farms, a certified seed potato farm in Saguache County, Colorado. Rocky Farms has shipped seed potatoes uninterrupted to Maine for about 35 years. We have always respected and complied with Maine seed potato import laws, rules and regulations. My Maine seed potato customers submit for import permits before their seed potatoes leave Rocky Farms. The standard import permit application process requires a North American Health Certificate (NAHC) from the Colorado Potato Certification Service (CPCS). In February 2026, the Maine Department of Agriculture requested the NAHC include a statement declaring the seed lots to be imported are free of nematodes. CPCS granted this request.

In addition to the NAHC, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) conducts an inspection that includes a zero tolerance on nematodes before all Colorado seed potato lots depart their point of origin. Rocky Farms seed potatoes were also inspected for nematodes when they arrived in Maine.

Today, the Maine Potato Board is threatening to halt all Colorado seed potato imports despite compliance with Maine's import laws. This threat is also violates National Potato Council's (NPC) harmonization agreements. The board claims Colorado seed potatoes are a danger to their farming system and Main's seed potato trade agreements with Canada. The board lacks the data to support their nematode infestation claims and Colorado currently ships seed potatoes to Canada. The board's lack of communication about their fears this late into the seed potato shipping season has burdened several Maine farms and seed companies, slandered the Colorado seed potato industry and raised many ethical questions about Maine's potato industry.

CONTACT

Rockey Farms complies with seed potato import laws across the nation. In regard to Maine's Chapter 30, Rockey Farms is located entirely in the Saguache County which is not on the quarantine list. Chapter 30, however, is contradicted by an additional law. Chapter 255 states:

The seed lot was produced in an area free of Golden Nematode (Globodera rostochiensis), the Columbia Root Knot Nematode (Meloidogyne chitwoodi) and potato wart (Synchytrium endobioticum).

This rule is vague, and fails to define the term "area free of ". Rockey Farms seed has never failed an inspection for any of the pests or diseases listed.

I am requesting that the state of Maine continues to allow the import of Colorado seed potatoes through the current inspection process or through a process that gives a grower the opportunity to meet all phytosanitary requirements. Additionally, I am requesting that Maine removes all Colorado counties from its out dated quarantine list and that the state works to repair its relationship with Colorado seed growers through communication, reasonable protocols and ethical integrity to protect and support all seed potato growers in the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Brendon Rockey

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CONTACT