



Increased Imports of Fresh, Chilled, or Frozen Blueberries Do Not Seriously Injure U.S. Industry, USITC Determines

February 11th, 2021.- The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has determined that fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries from different countries that are exporting to the United States, including Chile, Peru, and Mexico, are not a cause of serious injury, or the threat of serious injury to the domestic U.S. industry.

As a result, the commission determined to end the investigation and therefore no safeguards will be applied to such imported products.

As indicated by Juan Ignacio Allende, CEO of Hortifrut, "this is excellent news for the entire industry, considering producers, importers and distributors from different countries, as well as for customers and producers in the United States, for the increase in demand that we have seen in that market during the past years has benefited us all. Therefore, we must continue working together, both importers and local producers, to continue developing consumption in a sustainable way", he said.

Alongside, the Blueberry Coalition for Progress and Health initiated a campaign to demonstrate the benefits of berry imports to the United States market, becoming part of the section 201 investigation that has finished.

Hortifrut was part of the steering committee of this Coalition, which also included other companies and associations of the industry, including the Chilean Blueberry Committee, Chilealimentos and important producers from other countries such as Canada, Mexico, Peru, Argentina and also from the United States; as well as different trade associations from the countries that were defending this position such as the Blueberry Committee of Argentina, Pro Blueberry of Peru, Ane Berries of Mexico and the Canadian Blueberry Association, to name a few.

"We are very satisfied with the work done by the lawyers, economists and the entire team of the Coalition. A very professional and hard work was done to defend imported blueberries in the United States and their positive impact on that market. For us, this is very important news since we have operations throughout the region in addition to Chile, including Peru, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and also in the United States. With this, we will be able to operate as we have been doing until today, maintaining our long-term projects that will benefit all consumers", Allende concluded.