



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

April 4, 2022

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin Evers

American Oversight

C/o Megan Field

foia@americanoversight.org

**Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2020-OSEC-03256-F
First Interim Response**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the first interim response to the above-referenced March 31, 2020, FOIA request submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Office of Information Affairs (OIA), FOIA Division processed your request. OIA is under the purview of the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and serves as the focal point for USDA's FOIA program. It provides coordination and ensures agency-wide compliance with the FOIA. Additionally, the OIA processes requests and appeals on behalf of the Office of the Secretary (OSEC); the Under Secretaries; USDA's staff offices; and the Research, Education and Economics and Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission areas. This response is being provided on behalf of OSEC, for your request seeking:

1. Any records reflecting communications providing guidance or directives from the White House to USDA officials, including Secretary Perdue, regarding the relief strategy for farmers impacted by unjustified retaliation and trade disruption.⁷ At a minimum, this would include all communications with the following:
 - a. President Trump's 2018 directive to "Secretary Perdue to craft a short term relief strategy to protect agricultural producers while the Administration works on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets in the long run to help American farmers compete globally;"⁸
 - b. the President's authorization for "USDA to provide up to \$16 billion in programs;"⁹
 - c. any other Presidential authorizations for funding. Please provide all responsive records from March 1, 2018, through the date of the search.
2. All records (including preparatory briefings, materials shared during the meeting, notes taken during the meeting, memoranda memorializing the meeting, read-outs of the meeting) reflecting the content of or regarding the following meetings:
 - a. April 12, 2018 "Meeting with POTUS/Members of Congress/Governors on Agriculture and Trade -- The Cabinet Room, White House;"¹⁰
 - b. June 13, 2018, 9:00 AM-10:00AM, "Trade Meeting," with individuals

- outside of USDA, including Zippy Duvall, Chuck Conner, Chris Novak, Randy Russell, Randy Gordon, and Dale Moore;¹¹
- c. July 18, 2018, 3:30 PM-4:00PM, meeting with Todd Bastean, President of Bunge North America;¹²
 - d. July 25, 2018 “Meeting with POTUS & Members of Congress on Agriculture and Trade;”¹³
 - e. July 25, 2018, 5:30PM-5:45PM call with Newt Gingrich, “Topic: Trade;”¹⁴
 - f. September 5, 2018, 3:345PM-4:45PM, “Trade Mitigation Update”
3. The “china retaliation documents,” “Rob 330 mitigation documents” and “Z” listed on 3:30–4:00 PM calendar entry of Secretary Perdue’s calendar from March 27, 2018.¹⁷

Your request is being processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Searches for responsive records were conducted by the OIA’s telecommunications provider, the Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. The CEC searches located two hundred and twenty-nine (229) pages of records responsive to this first interim response to your request. They are being released to you in part, as described below.

FOIA Exemption 5 – Pre-decisional/Deliberative and Attorney Client

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” One of the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA’s deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter.

In this instance, the OIA is withholding portions of emails containing discussions about future agency statements, briefing documents used to aid in the decision-making process, draft statements, draft talking points, colleague, and interagency review of policy and/or recommendations. We are also withholding discussions and briefs regarding the approval decisions of proposals, materials for preparation of testimony, and discussions of actions being contemplated regarding regulatory reforms. Messaging decisions are eligible for protection under the Deliberative Process Privilege because an agency’s decision regarding how to present its substantive policies to the public often involves the evaluation of alternative public relations policies, policies which are audience-sensitive and must anticipate public reaction.

Disclosure of such information would have a chilling effect on the ability of agency officials to engage in free and frank discussions regarding policy but also may cause confusion on the agency’s actual position on the policy at issue. Specifically, release of this information would

reveal the USDA's deliberative and pre-decisional discussions of policies that were not adopted in part (or in full) and/or contemplations of legal and policy matters that were not yet acted on or not adopted.

The OIA is also withholding information under the attorney-client privilege. This privilege protects confidential communication between an attorney and his/her client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Although this privilege fundamentally applies to facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinion given by an attorney to his/her client based upon those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect client supplied information. In this instance, the OIA is withholding email discussions between USDA employees and Departmental counsel whereby legal advice is being sought regarding matters submitted to and pending counsel's review in aid of the agency's decision-making process.

FOIA Exemption 6

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of the FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile telephone numbers, unpublished direct-dial phone numbers, and unpublished email addresses. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. Releasing mobile phone numbers, and email addresses for individuals could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications and would not shed additional light on governmental operations. Because there are viable privacy interests that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

You may appeal this interim response by email at USDAFOIA@usda.gov. As this is an interim response, we will notify you of your appeal rights upon completion and delivery of the pending final response to your request.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the OIA's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Melanie Enciso. Ms. Enciso may be contacted by telephone at (202) 720-9425, or electronically at Melanie.Enciso@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/mediation-program/request-assistance> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

Please withhold any appeals until you have received the final response to this request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Jeff Crile at 202-720-7732 or electronically at Jeffrey.Crile@usda.gov or at USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

The OIA-FOIA appreciates the opportunity to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Director
Office of Information Affairs

Enclosures: (229 pages)

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 28 May 2019 14:34:53 +0000
To: Fordyce, Richard - FSA, Washington, DC; Peterson, Steve - FSA, Washington, DC; Sayers, Kathy - FSA, Washington, DC; Beam, Bill - FPAC-FSA, Washington, DC; Karmen, Brad - OSEC, Washington, DC; Matthews, David - FSA, Washington, DC
Cc: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC; Aguero, Michael - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: MFP2 Meeting Requests
Attachments: Trade Support Press Release 5.23.19.pdf

Folks: Attachment withheld in full under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (2 pp.)

If you get requests for meetings regarding MFP2, please forward them to Lillie Brady in the USDA office of intergovernmental relations. (b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative All USDA

stakeholder outreach and meeting requests will be coordinated and scheduled through USDA's Intergovernmental Affairs Shop through Lillie Brady lillie.brady@usda.gov

Jamie

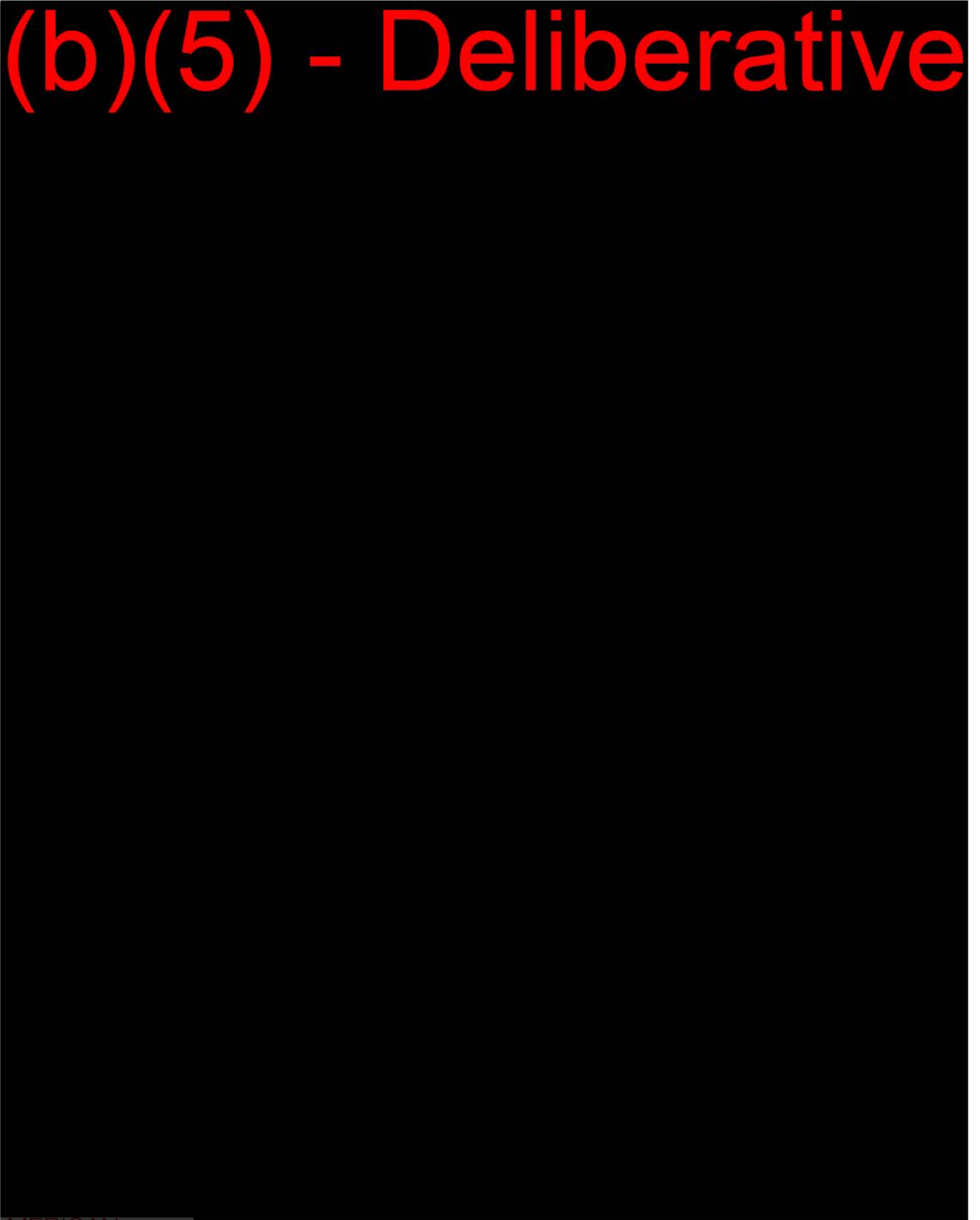


Jamie Clover Adams

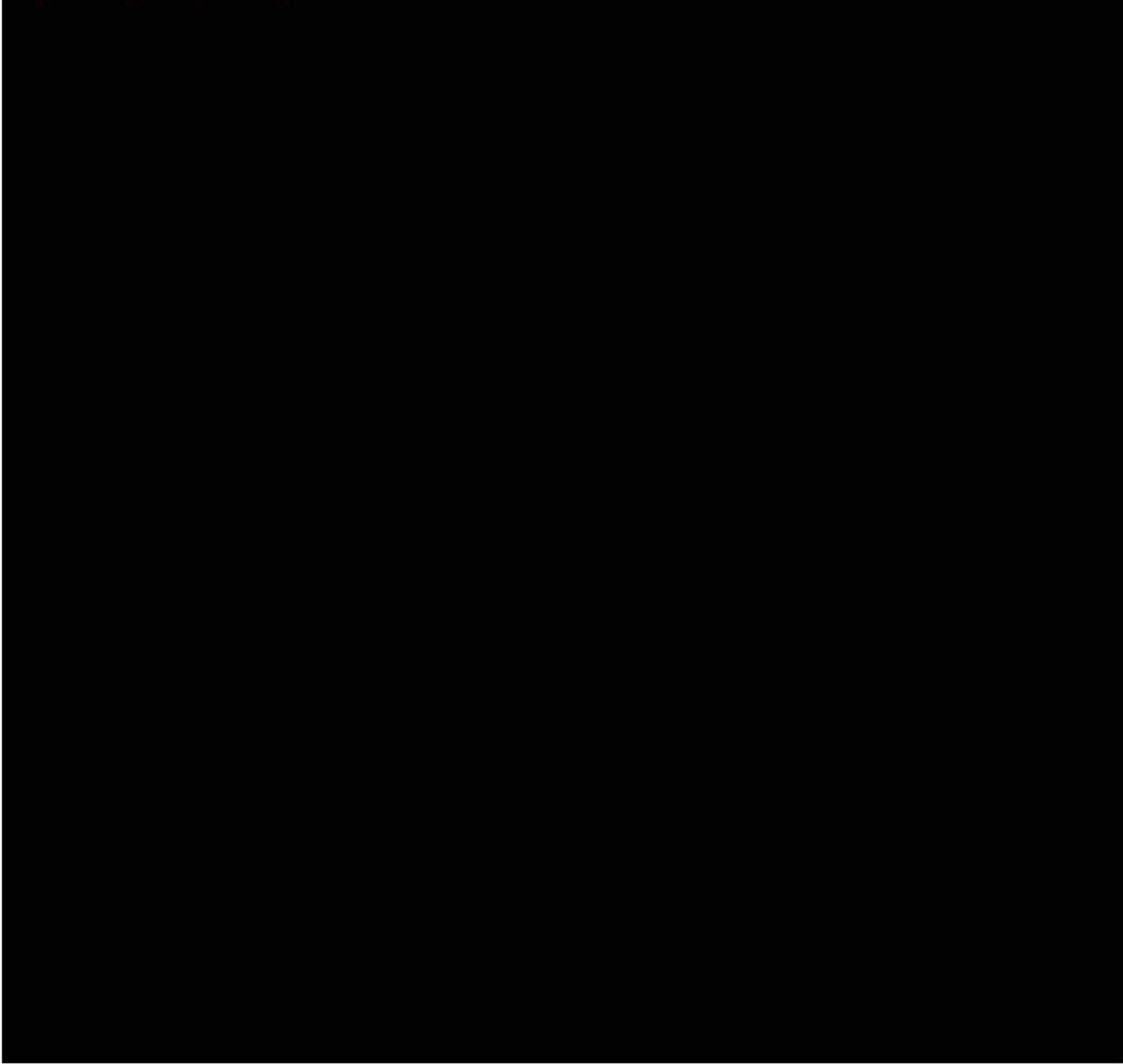
Chief of Staff, Under Secretary Bill Northey
 Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area

United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: (202) 692-5272
 Cell: (b) (6)

(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



From: [Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC](#); [Tate, Traci - OGC, Washington, DC](#); [Sindall, David - OSEC](#); [Aguero, Michael - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC](#); [Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC](#); [Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC](#)
Subject: FW: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter
Date: Friday, June 7, 2019 12:30:58 PM

Good Afternoon. The above referenced letter has been forwarded to your office for clearance via ABE. Please note, per the FPAC Chief of Staff, this letter is a RUSH. Please review and clear ASAP.

Thanks much!

From: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>
Cc: Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter

Good Morning, All:

(b)(5)DPP, (b)(5) Attorney Client

Thanks,

Tina

Ms. Tina L. Kingsberry
 Correspondence Account Manager
 Office of the Executive Secretariat
 E-mail: Tina.Kingsberry@osec.usda.gov
 Main Line: (202) 720-7100
 Direct: **(b)(6)**
 Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Telework: Tuesday

PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: [HERE](#)

From: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2019 7:34 AM
To: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC <tina.kingsberry@usda.gov>
Cc: Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter
Importance: High

(b)(5) Attorney Client

Thanks

From: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC <tina.kingsberry@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter

Thanks lady!

From: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Gerald, Lauren - OES, Washington, DC <lauren.gerald@usda.gov>; Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>
Cc: Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>; Sparks, Gwen - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <gwen.sparks@usda.gov>; Koss, Joe - OES, Washington, DC <joe.koss@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter

All –

As per the request of the agency,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

Please let me know, if any additional assistance is required.

Thanks,

Tina

Ms. Tina L. Kingsberry
 Correspondence Account Manager
 Office of the Executive Secretariat
 E-mail: Tina.Kingsberry@osec.usda.gov
 Main Line: (202) 720-7100
 Direct: **(b) (6)**
 Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Telework: Tuesday

PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: [HERE](#)

From: Gerald, Lauren - OES, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2019 1:48 PM
To: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>
Cc: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC <tina.kingsberry@usda.gov>; Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>; Sparks, Gwen - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <gwen.sparks@usda.gov>; Koss, Joe - OES, Washington, DC <joe.koss@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter

Hi Jody,

I don't have the rights to change the Review Tasks. (It says I modified it but it's just because I set up the folder. I don't have the ability to change anything outside of the Summary and Correspondence Contacts sections.)

Tina or Joe – is this something that one of you can do?

Lauren Gerald
Correspondent Analyst, OES
202-720-1574

Please rate my customer service [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6FB53C).
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6FB53C>

From: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Gerald, Lauren - OES, Washington, DC <lauren.gerald@usda.gov>
Cc: Kingsberry, Tina - OES, Washington, DC <tina.kingsberry@usda.gov>; Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>; Sparks, Gwen - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <gwen.sparks@usda.gov>
Subject: 2019-05-16-125610 Thune/Rounds/Johnson MFP RUSH letter
Importance: High

Hi Lauren. This letter is a RUSH, per the FPAC Chief of Staff. It was transferred to FSA from FAS. I noticed when I went into the review tab, it still lists TFAA as a clearance office, I am assuming that wasn't changed after it was transferred. Can you please go in and change the Under Secretary clearance office to FPAC? We need this to move ASAP, so having the tracking corrected with help with that.

Thanks!

Jody Bailey
FPAC-Business Center
External Affairs Division
Congressional Engagement Section
Executive Correspondence Team
Office: (202) 720-7518

From: Butschky, Dena - FSA, Washington, DC
To: Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Sayers, Kathy - FSA, Washington, DC; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC shared the folder "2019-05-21-292244" with you.
Date: Friday, June 7, 2019 7:28:43 AM
Attachments: image001.png
 image002.png
 image003.png

(b)(5) - Deliberative

Dena M. Butschky
 Executive Assistant to the Administrator
 Office of the Administrator, FSA
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Stop 0501 Room 3086-S
 Washington, DC 20250
 Email: Dena.Butschky@usda.gov
 Direct: (b) (6) | Fax: 202-720-9105

"DO RIGHT AND FEED EVERYONE"

From: Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Butschky, Dena - FSA, Washington, DC <dena.butschky@usda.gov>; Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>; Sayers, Kathy - FSA, Washington, DC <kathy.sayers@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC shared the folder "2019-05-21-292244" with you.

Dena, please report who in AO cleared. We have to include names now...

Dee

From: Butschky, Dena - FSA, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>; Sayers, Kathy - FSA, Washington, DC <kathy.sayers@usda.gov>; Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC shared the folder "2019-05-21-292244" with you.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

Dena M. Butschky
 Executive Assistant to the Administrator
 Office of the Administrator, FSA

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Stop 0501 Room 3086-S
 Washington, DC 20250

Email: Dena.Butschky@usda.gov

Direct: (b)(5) - Deliberative Fax: 202-720-9105

"DO RIGHT AND FEED EVERYONE"

From: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <no-reply@sharepointonline.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:12 PM

To: Butschky, Dena - FSA, Washington, DC <dena.butschky@usda.gov>; Sayers, Kathy - FSA, Washington, DC <kathy.sayers@usda.gov>; Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <deirdre.ledbetter@usda.gov>; Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <catherine.hawkins@usda.gov>

Cc: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <jody.bailey@usda.gov>

Subject: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC shared the folder "2019-05-21-292244" with you.

Please review the attached draft for the Secretary's signature. DAFP cleared on 6-4. FPAC-BC CE cleared with minor edits 6-4. Please let the Executive Correspondence Team know when FSA/AO review is completed via email. Thanks



This link will work for anyone in USDA.



[2019-05-21-292244](#)

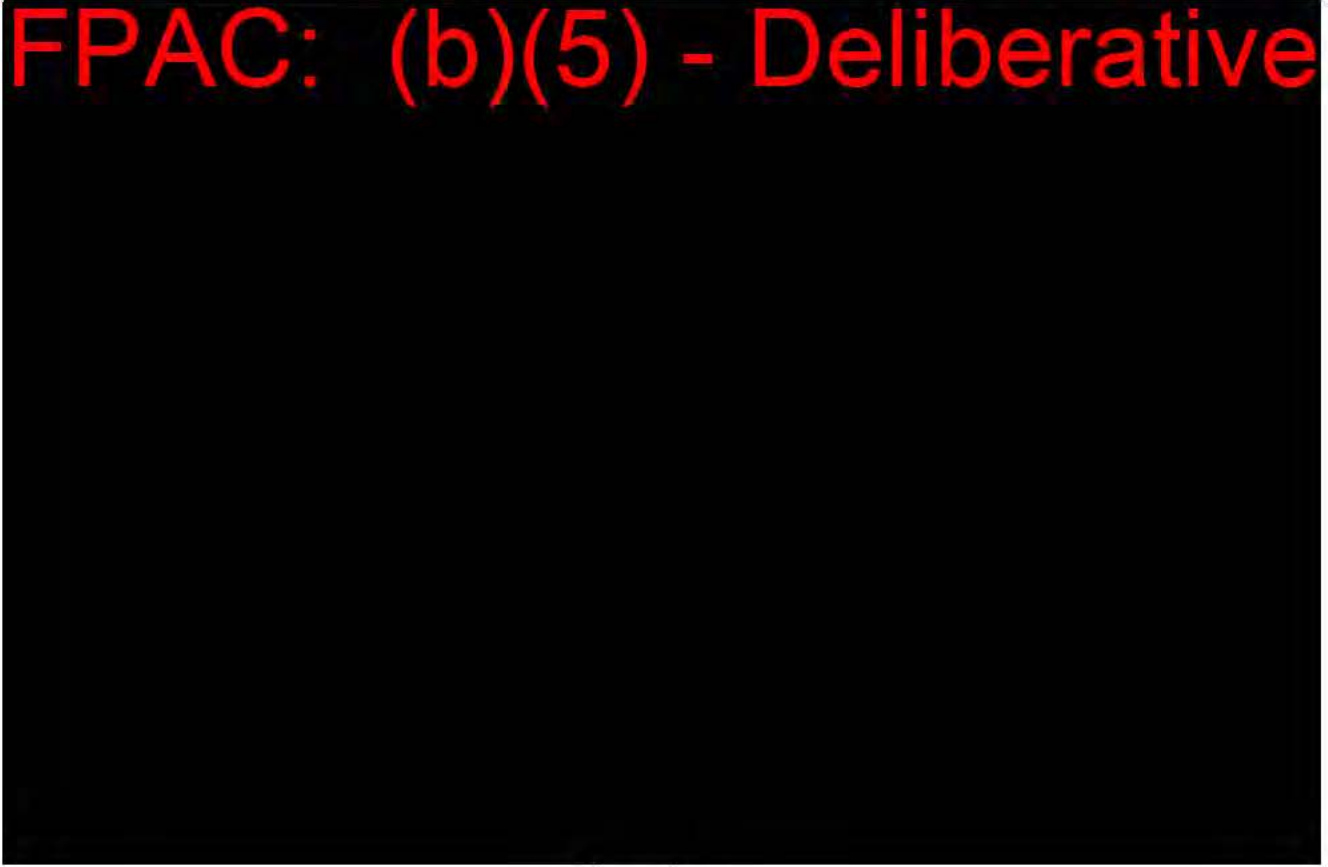


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 Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

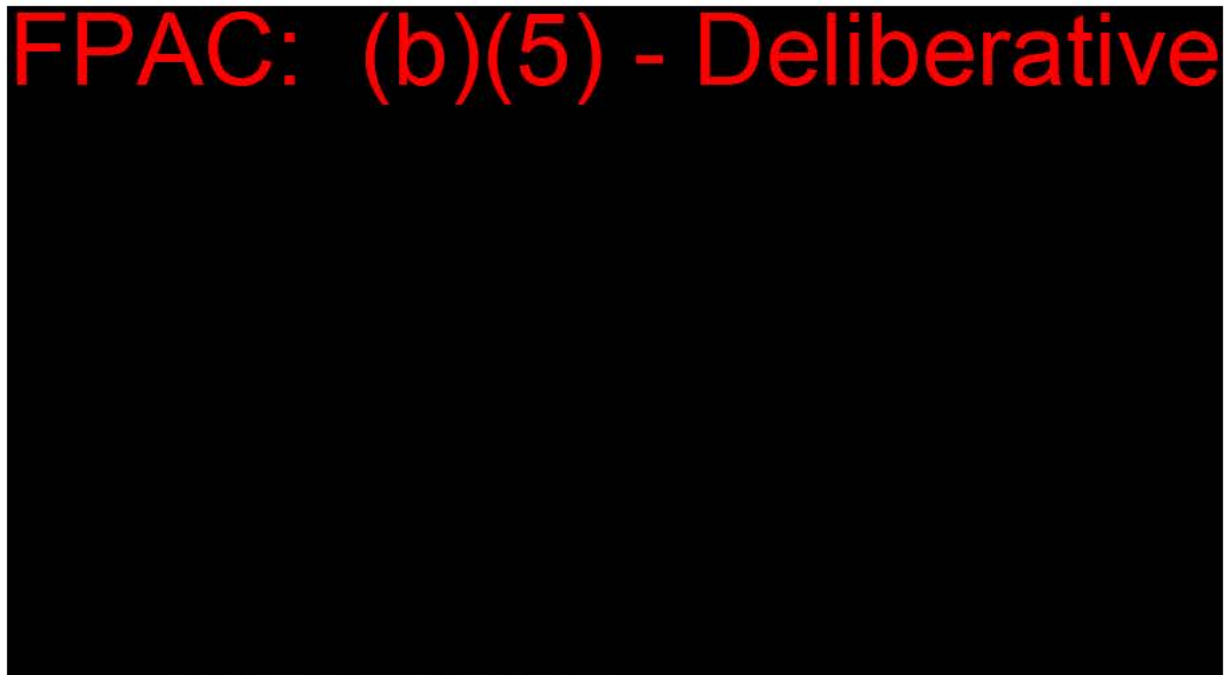


Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Although a resolution to the trade dispute with China is our top priority, we write to express our support for equitable short-term economic relief for our agricultural producers.

Producers are aware that China has taken advantage of U.S. innovation and technology far too long, and they are supportive of the Trump Administration's efforts to strike a fair deal that increases market access for American agricultural products. They prefer competitive unrestricted access to global markets in lieu of any short-term government assistance program; however, until that goal is achieved we support the administration's efforts to provide appropriate relief during this challenging agricultural economic climate.

South Dakota producers are resilient and have survived one of the harshest winters on record, followed by devastating spring flooding and now a delayed planting season. However, operating their farms with successive years of declining commodity prices and falling net farm income is critically jeopardizing the sustainability of their operations. Because the 2018 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) provided only production-based assistance, we ask you to consider the following changes to provide a more robust equitable safety net for the next iteration of MFP.

We request that any future MFP assistance does not incentivize non-market based planting decisions and we strongly encourage you to develop a program that fairly and equitably addresses producers' trade-related losses across all commodities. We were encouraged to see Undersecretary Northey's recent remarks encouraging farmers to "Plant for the market. Don't plant for trade aid."

Additionally, we encourage you to consider allocating 2019 crop-year assistance based on a producer's 2018 planted and considered acreage of each eligible crop, and that each crop's payment yield would be calculated based on the higher of the county average yield for the county in which the land is physically located or the producer's Actual Production History (APH) in the crop insurance unit in which that crop was grown in 2018. We believe the 2018 crop acreage would be reflective of each crop's acreage likely to be planted for the 2019 crop year and that calculating future MFP payments based on 2018 certified acreage and the higher of county average yield or APH would allow USDA to provide immediate assistance to producers.

Finally, when determining the MFP payment rate for individual commodities, we strongly encourage you to account for the substantial indirect effect retaliatory tariffs are having on all commodities and all producers. Though not all commodities have been retaliated against directly, the overall effect on the market has occurred across the entire agricultural sector in the form of depressed prices. Additionally, all farmers are negatively impacted by higher costs for inputs and equipment that have been caused by the trade dispute and tariffs.

We appreciate your steadfast attention to rural America, our farmers and ranchers, and your desire to expeditiously provide relief from trade inequities. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter because rural America needs economic assistance as soon as possible.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of U.S. agriculture.

Sincerely,



John Thune
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Ross-DeFlanders, Paula - OES, Washington, DC

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 10:17 AM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: OES-FRONT
Subject: Fwd: SD letter to the Secretary
Attachments: SD Delegation letter to Secretary Perdue 5_16_19.pdf

SD delegation letter on trade assistance.

--
 Evan B. Lee
 Chief of Staff
 Office of Congressional Relations
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 C: (b) (6)

From: "Weber, John" (b) (6)@mail.house.gov>
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 10:14:24 AM
To: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)@thune.senate.gov" (b) (6)@thune.senate.gov>, "Donnelly, Ryan (Thune)"
 <(b) (6)@thune.senate.gov>, "Penfield, Logan (Rounds)" (b) (6)@rounds.senate.gov>
Subject: SD letter to the Secretary

Hi Evan – Please find the attached letter from the SD delegation regarding trade assistance. We appreciate all your hard work on this issue.

Thanks,
 John

John Weber
 Senior Policy Advisor
 Rep. Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)
 1508 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-2801

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 19 Aug 2019 14:53:01 +0000
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE
Subject: RE: current damage methods
Attachments: DRAFT_Trade damage methodology_08172019_140pm FPAC.docx

Great job. (b)(5) - Deliberative

Thanks. Attachment withheld in full under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (9 pp.)

Jamie

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 8:36 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: current damage methods

Grt. Thx.

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 8:24 AM
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Cc: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: current damage methods

(b)(5) - Deliberative Will get them to you this morning Rob.

Jamie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 8:22:25 AM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Cc: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: current damage methods

Very, very good, Rob.

(b)(5) - Deliberative
(b)(5) - Deliberative

Great work!
Bill

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2019 1:47 PM

To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>

Cc: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>

Subject: current damage methods

Hi Bill and Jamie,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

Thanks!

Rob



Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Chief Economist

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

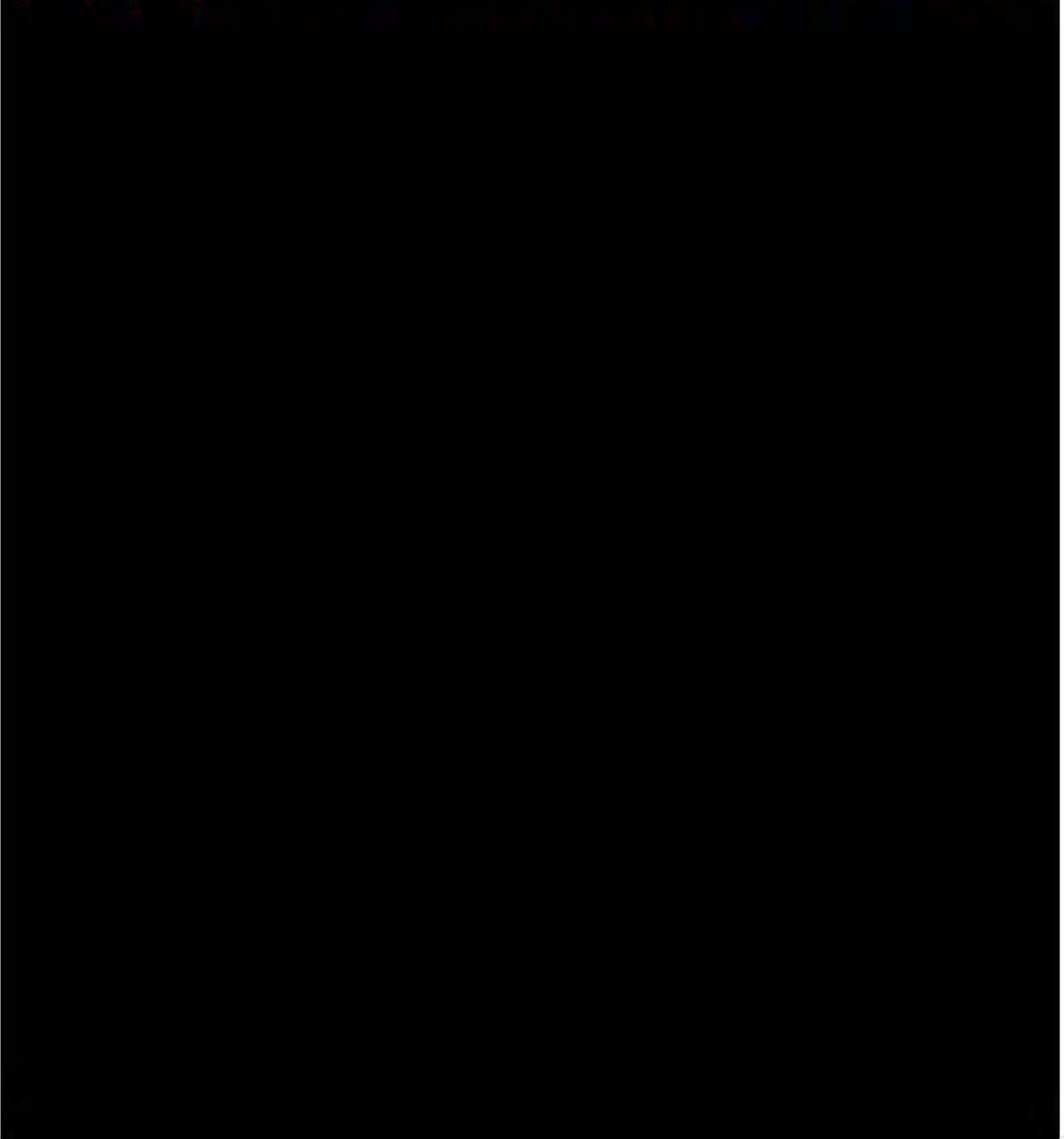
Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation
Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program

Executive Summary

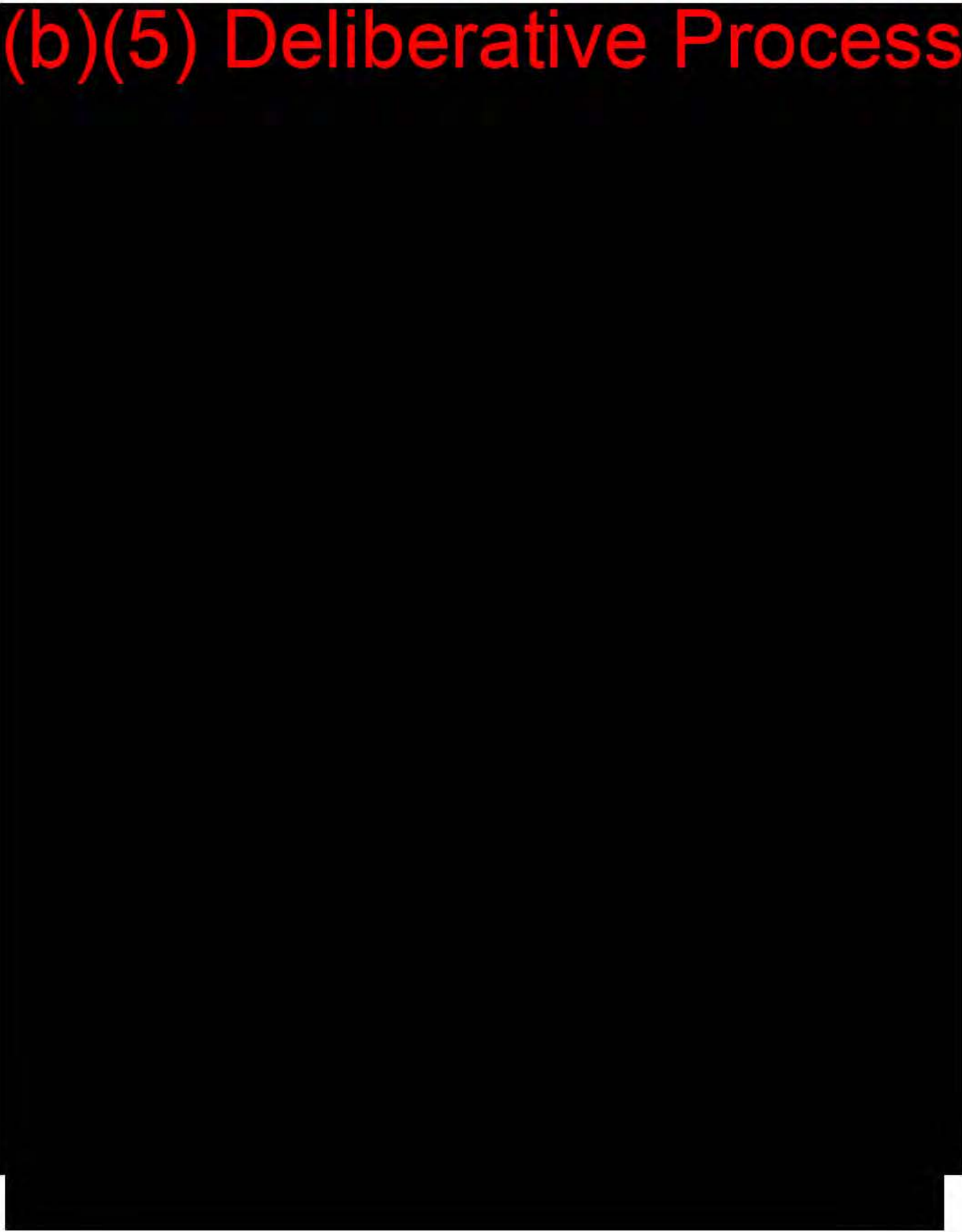
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



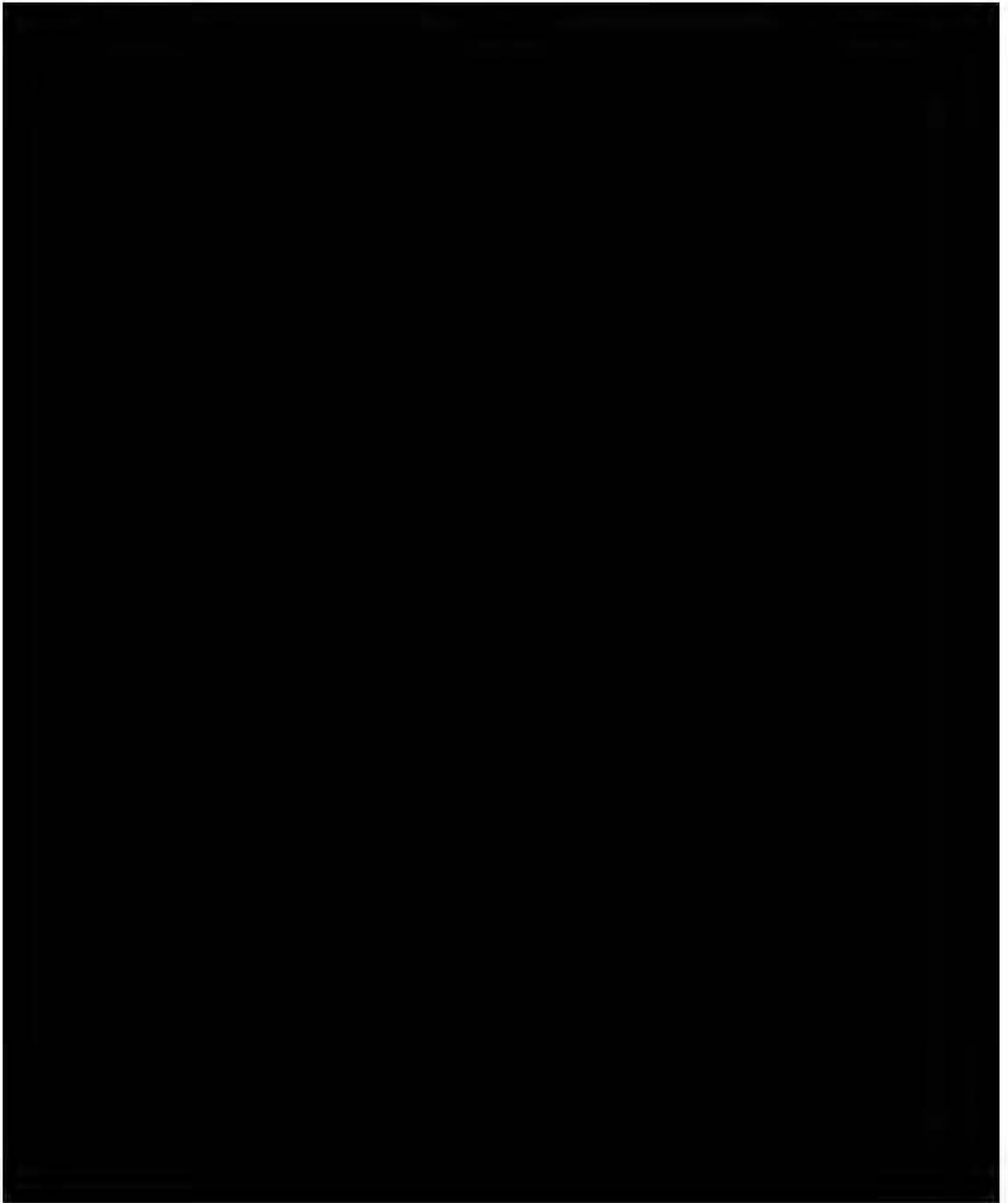
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



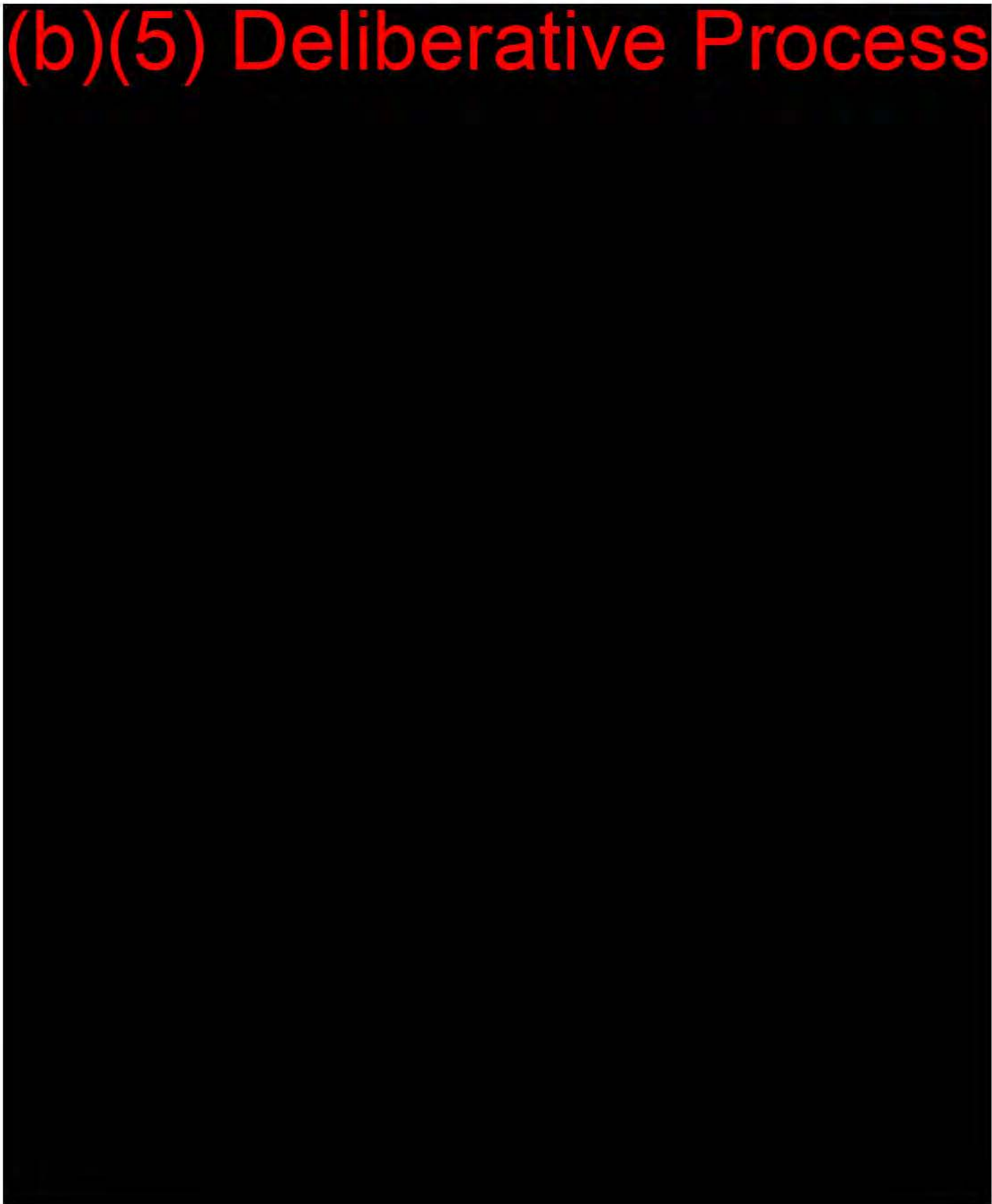
predecisional

deliberative

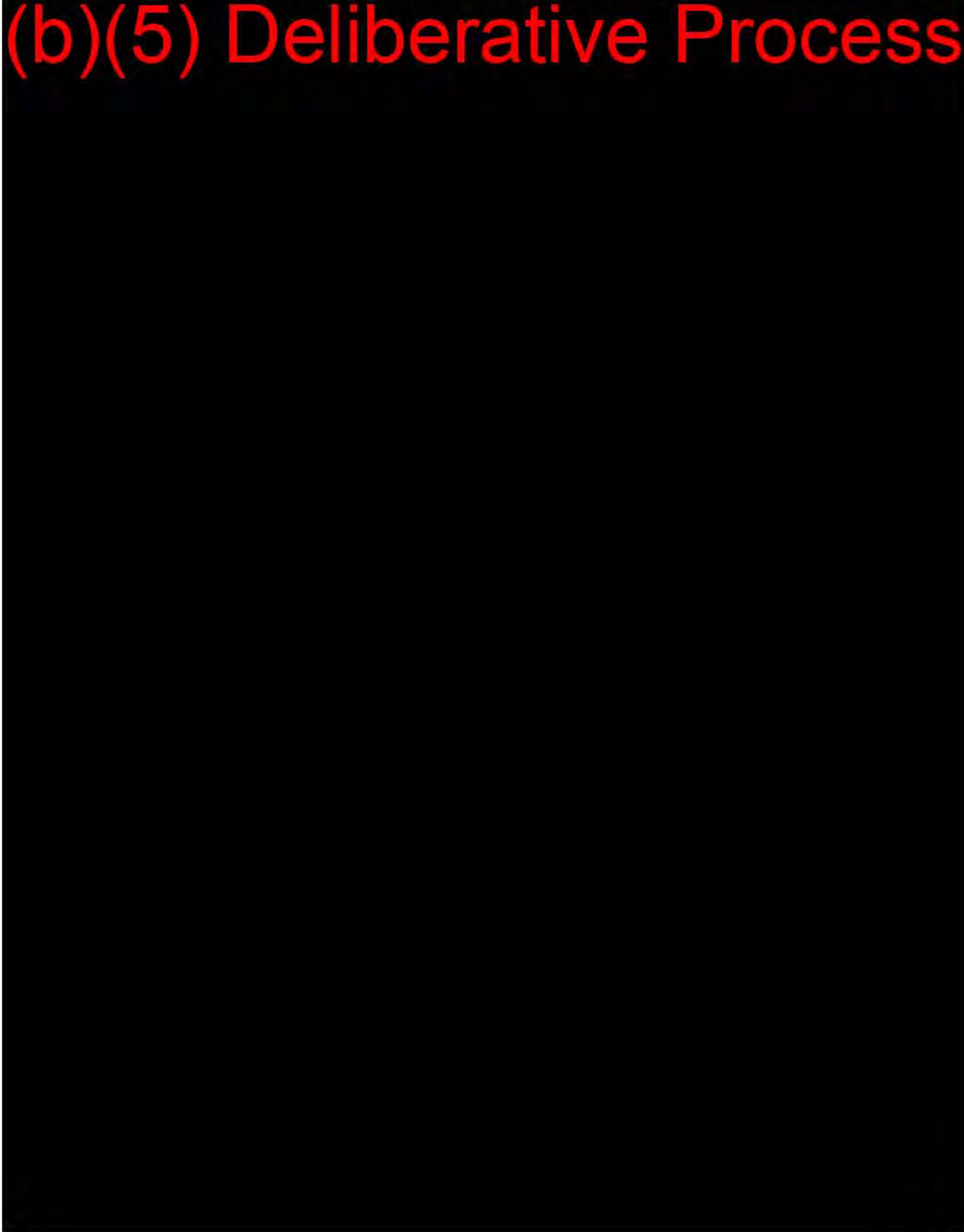
2020-OSEC-03258-F
privileged



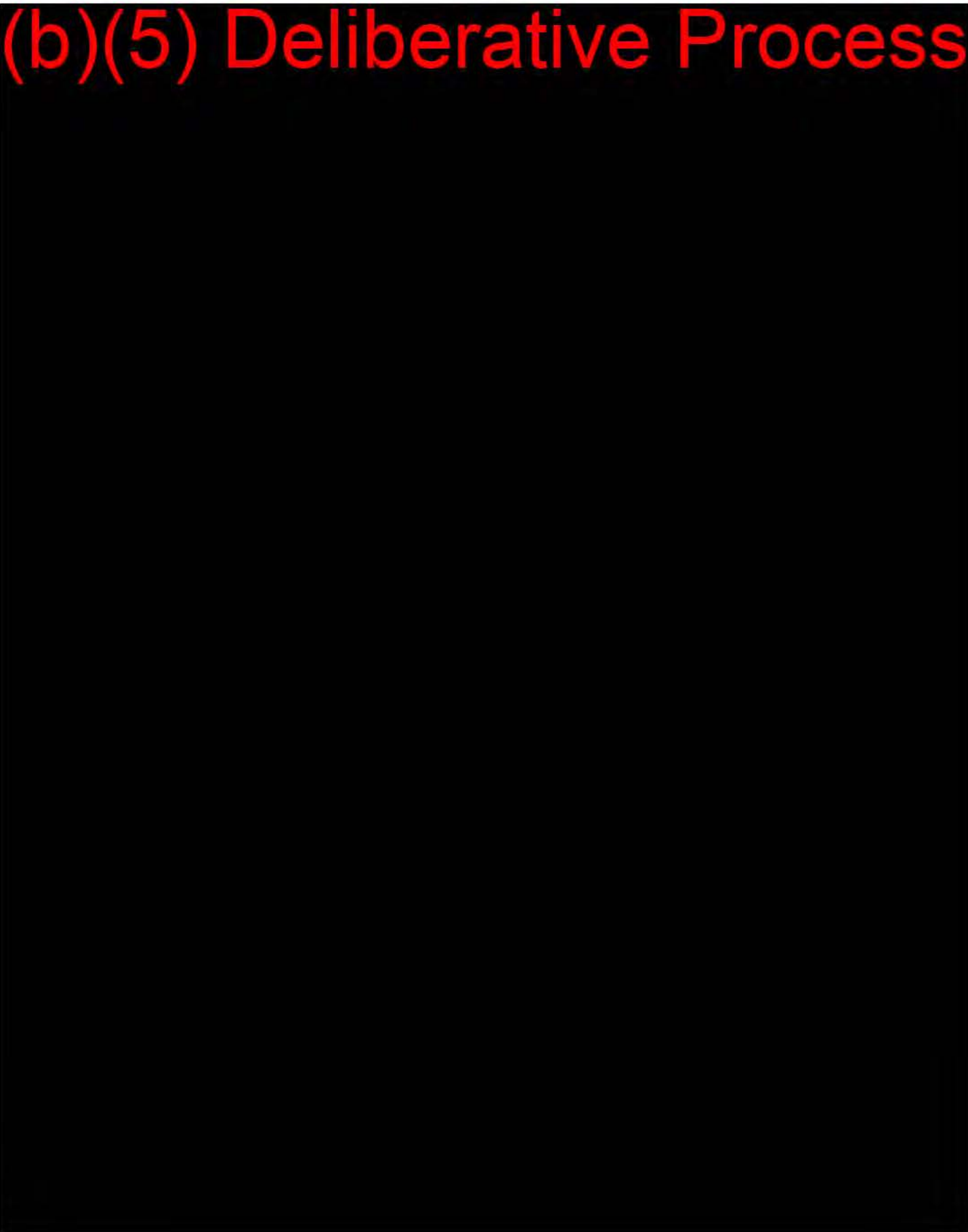
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



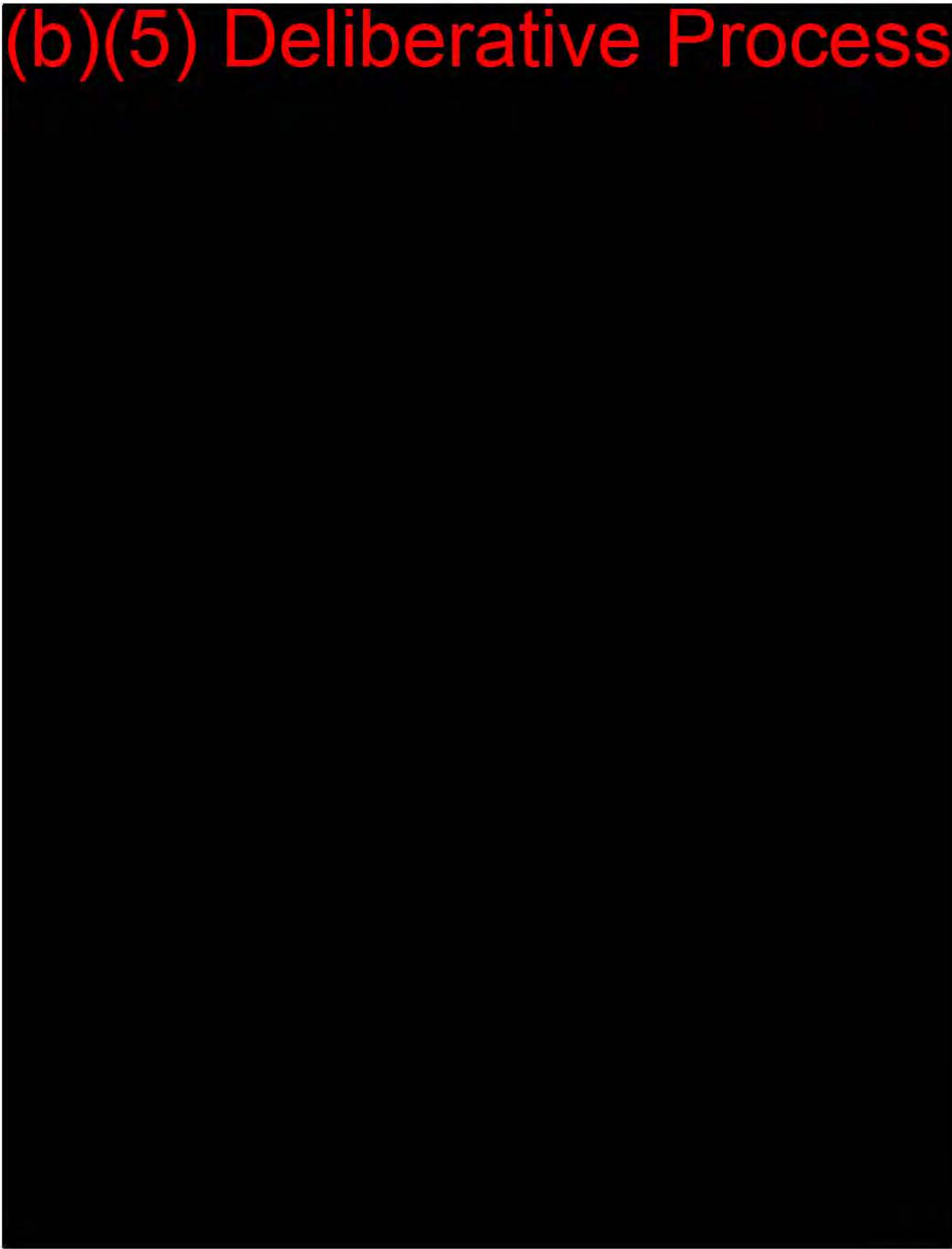
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 10 Jun 2019 18:18:04 +0000
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: MFP

Okay. Thanks.

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 2:16 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <kaveh.sadeghzadeh@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MFP

No – (b)(5) - Deliberative

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <kaveh.sadeghzadeh@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MFP

Michawn,

Can we come up with a more concise statement – using the Secretary's response –
 ? Something like:

FPAC: (b)(5) Deliberative

Dave

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <kaveh.sadeghzadeh@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: MFP

Sorry, give reporters the interview with ssp if they ask about Otherwise your statement is fine if it's a general question.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 12:26:15 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: MFP

No. (b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

###

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 12:24:00 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Subject: MFP

Jamie and Michawn,

Are you okay with FPAC External Affairs responding to queries on MFP2 with the following (attributed to a USDA spokesperson)?

FPAC: (b)(5) Deliberative



Thanks,

Dave Warner

Director, External Affairs

Farm Production and Conservation

United States Department of Agriculture

Room 4082

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: 202-720-7809

Email: David.Warner@usda.gov

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 23 May 2019 13:58:41 +0000
To: Matthews, David - FSA, Washington, DC
Cc: Fordyce, Richard - FSA, Washington, DC
Subject: Talking Points and Press Release
Attachments: Trade Support Press Release 5.23.19.pdf, PD OSEC Rollout Plan Farmer Support re Trade 5.23.19 .pdf

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

are only for internal use.

Jamie

Attachment 1: Duplicate record (2 pp.)

Attachment 2: Withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (8 pp.)



Jamie Clover Adams

Chief of Staff, Under Secretary Bill Northey
Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area

United States Department of Agriculture

Office: (202) 692-5272

Cell: (b)(5) - Deliberative

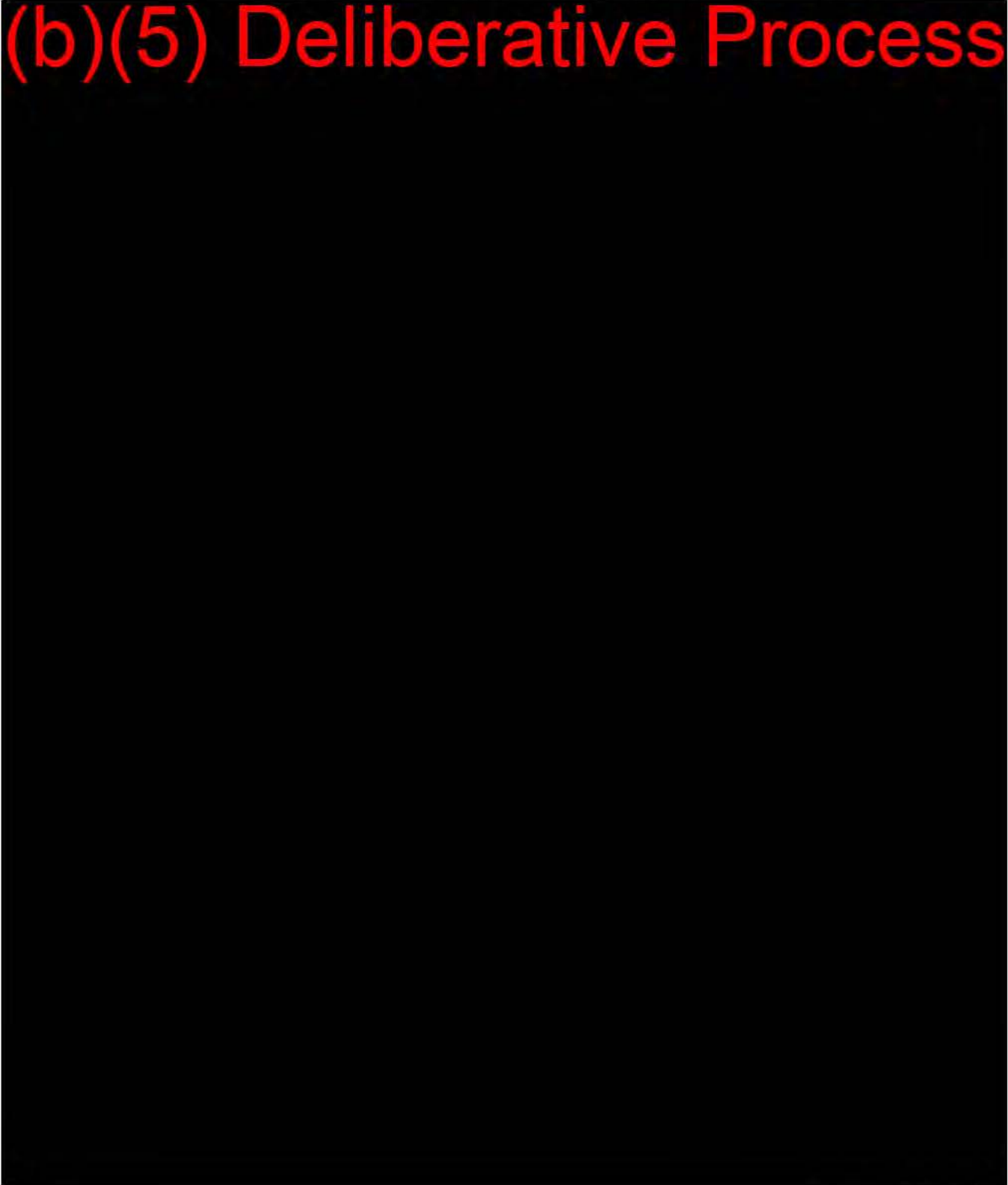
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Duplicate

DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

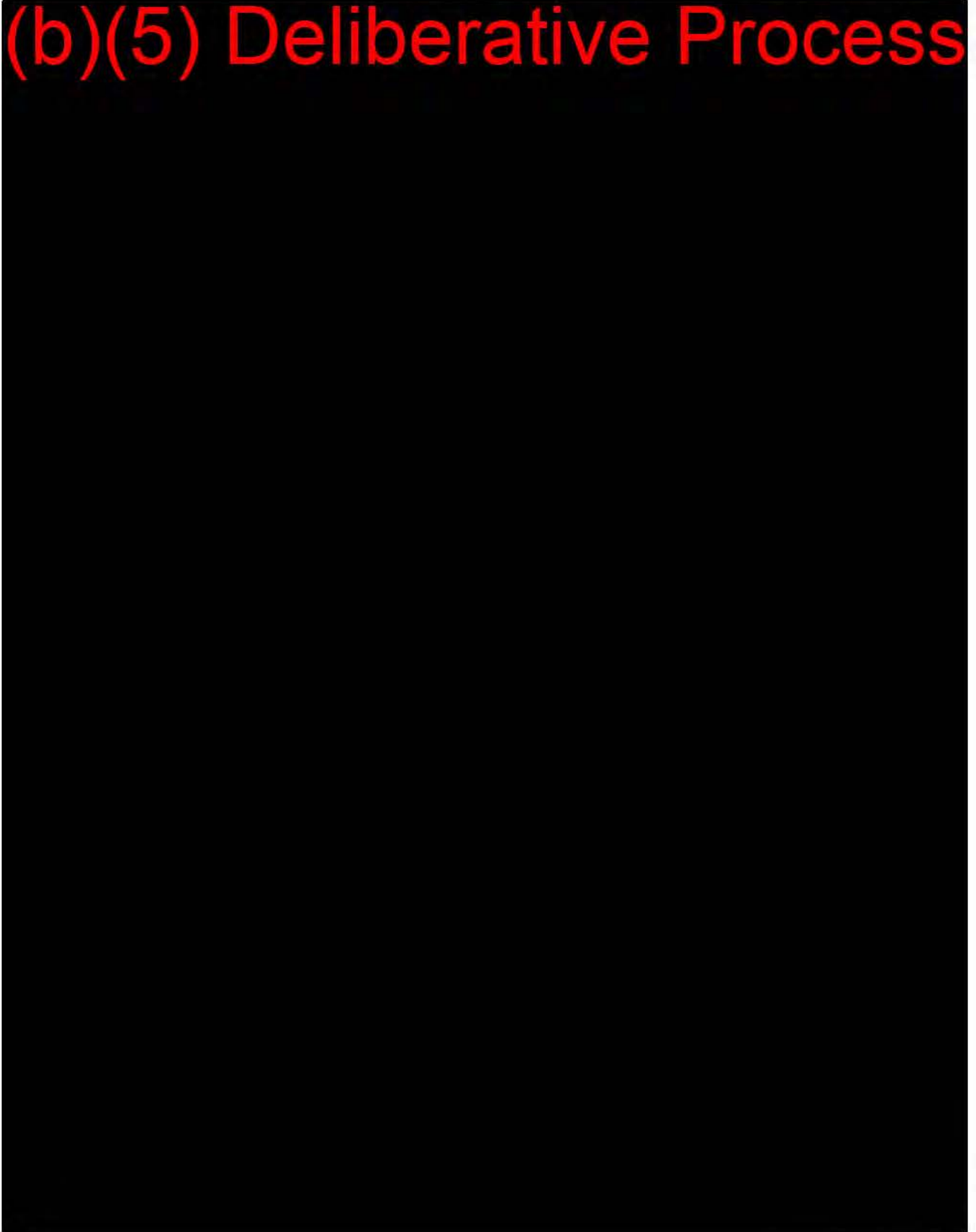
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (OSEC) ROLLOUT PLAN

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



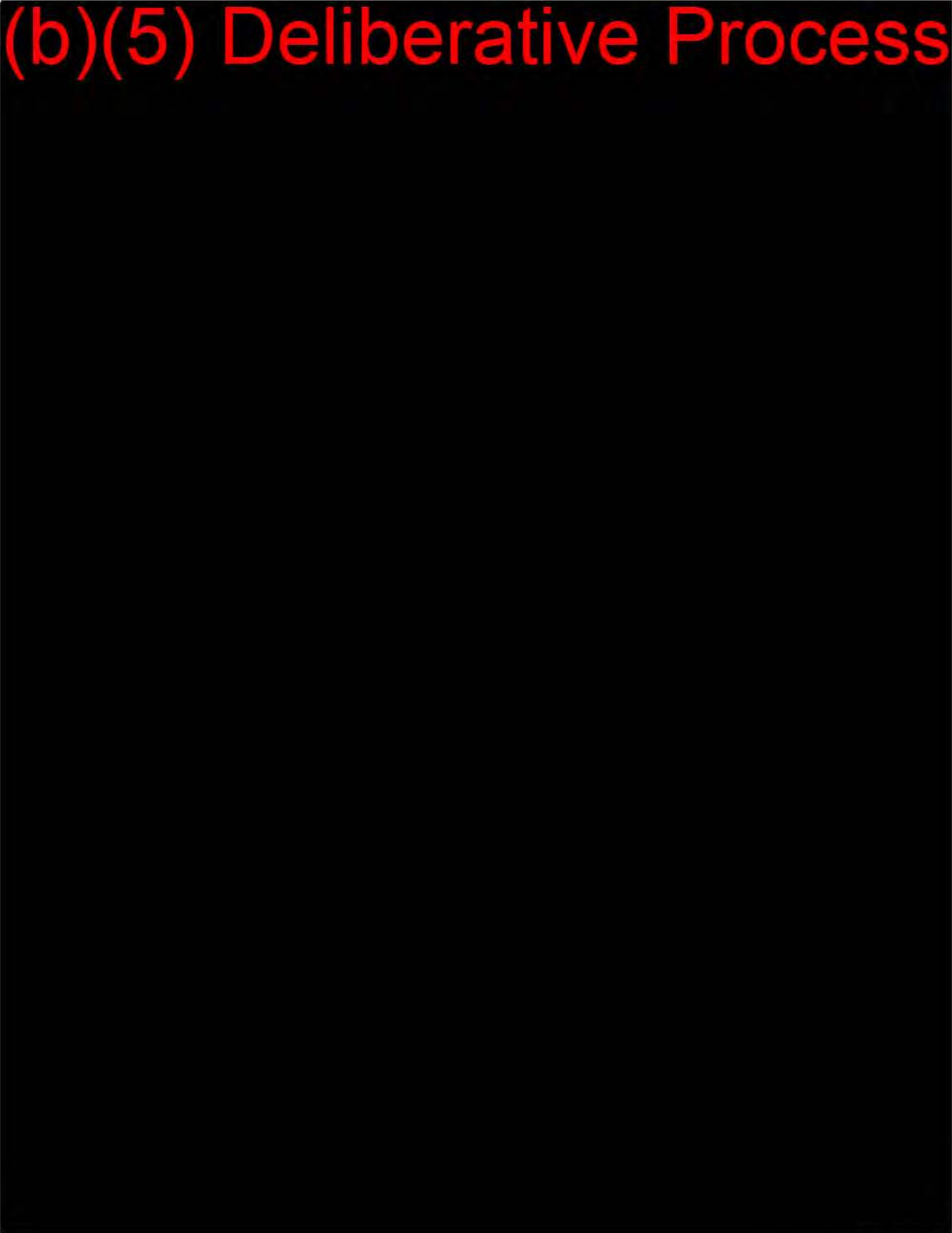
DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



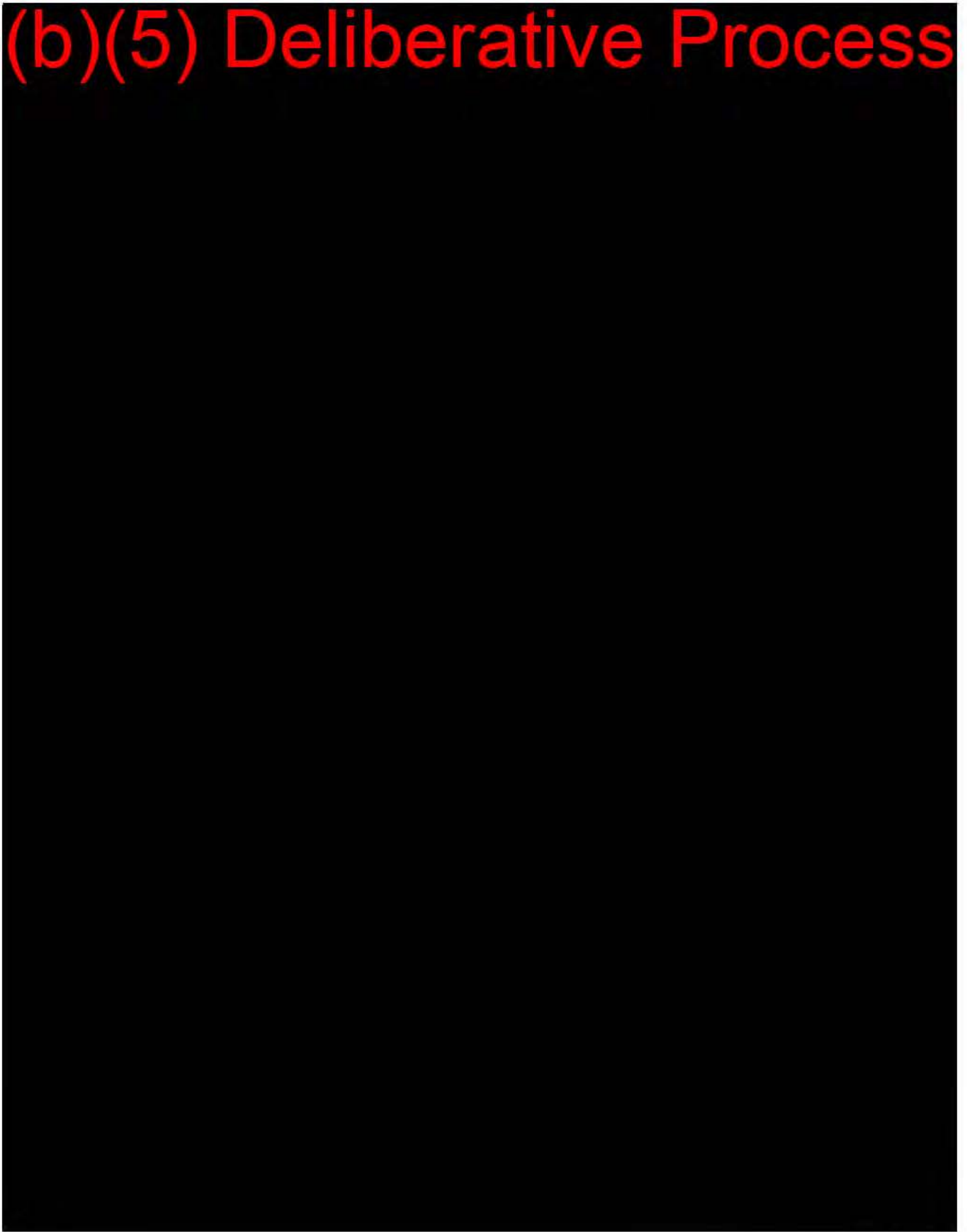
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(b)(5) Deliberative Process



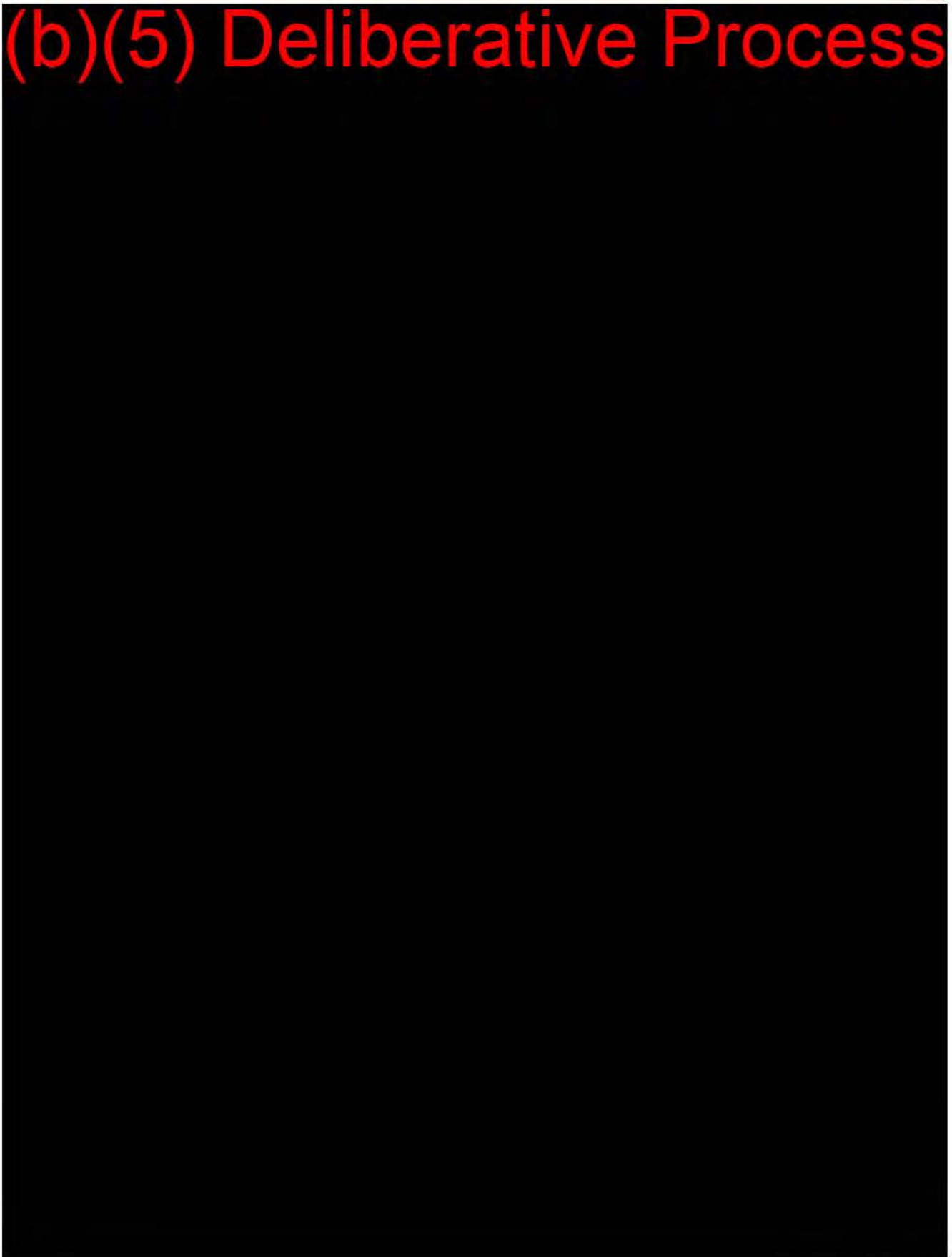
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(b)(5) Deliberative Process



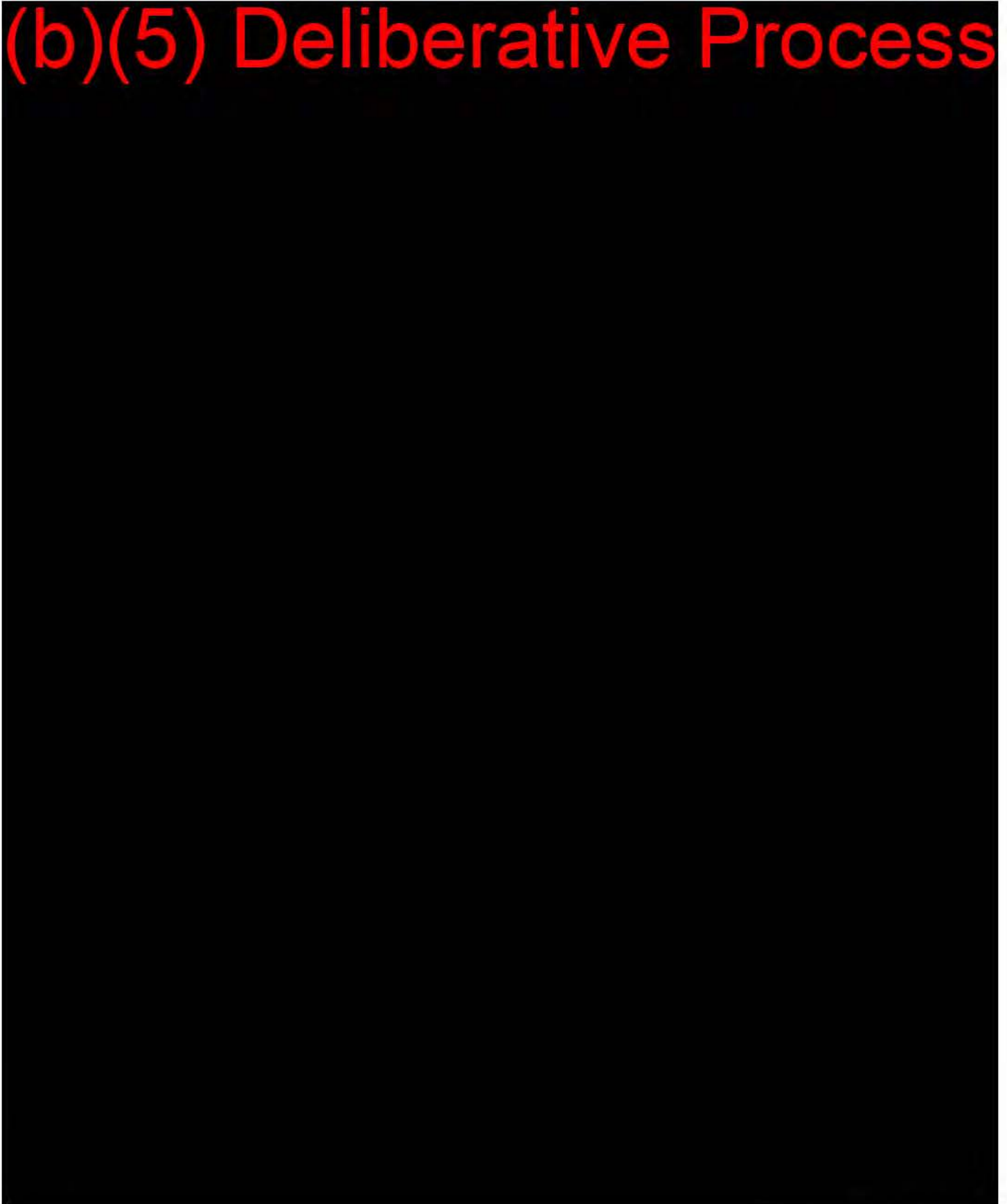
DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



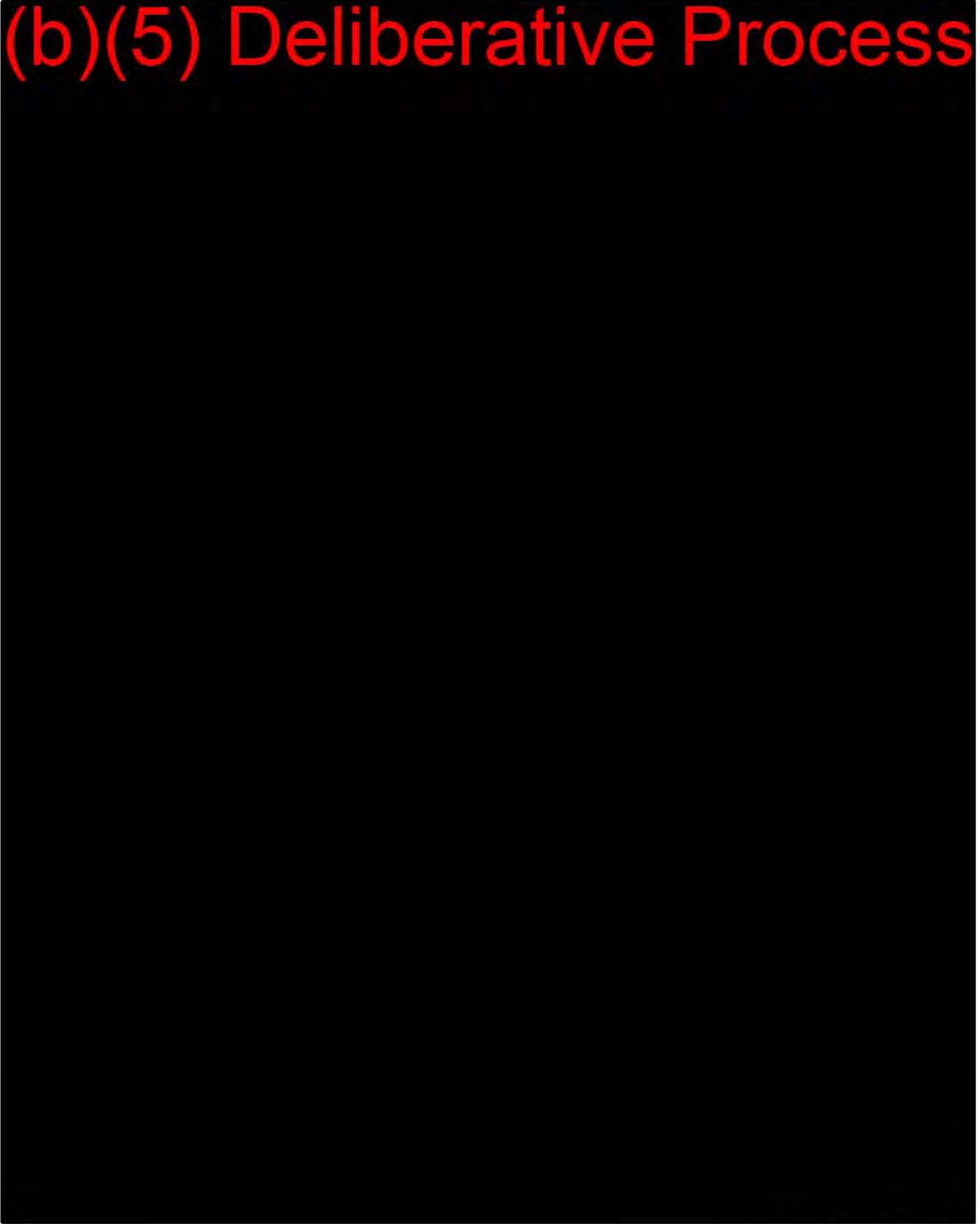
DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



From: Matthews, David - FSA, Washington, DC
Sent: 23 May 2019 16:02:58 +0000
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: [REDACTED] (b)(5) - FPAC Deliberative
Attachments: [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative

Is there another file that needs to be sent out?

Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (2 pp.)

~David

David W. Matthews
Office of the Administrator
Farm Service Agency
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Rm. 3078 - S
 Washington, DC 20250
 202-430-8587 | David.W.Matthews@osec.usda.gov

From: Matthews, David - FSA, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 11:50 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: [REDACTED] (b)(5) -FPAC Deliberative

This is the message that was sent to SEDs.

~David

David W. Matthews
Office of the Administrator
Farm Service Agency
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Rm. 3078 - S
 Washington, DC 20250
 202-430-8587 | David.W.Matthews@osec.usda.gov

From: Macdonald, April - FSA, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Beavers, Dennis - FSA, Nashville, TN <dennis.beavers@usda.gov>; Biggs, Scott - FSA, Stillwater, OK <scott.biggs@usda.gov>; Brown, Steven - FSA, Indianapolis, IN <steven.brown2@usda.gov>; Bushue, Barry - FPAC-FSA, Tualatin, OR <Barry.Bushue@usda.gov>; Calogero, Barry - FSA, Hamilton Square, NJ <barry.calogero@usda.gov>; Carson, Robert - FSA, Jackson, MS <robert.carson@usda.gov>; Chalmers, Sandra - FSA, Madison, WI <sandra.chalmers@usda.gov>; Chapin, Clark - FSA, Tolland, CT <clark.chapin@usda.gov>; Curtis, David - FSA, Little Rock, AR <david.curtis@usda.gov>; Dahmer, Roger - FSA, Morgantown, WV <roger.dahmer@usda.gov>; Dangel, Brian - FPAC-BC, Spokane, WA <brian.dangel@usda.gov>; Davidian, Edward - FSA, Amherst, MA <edward.davidian@usda.gov>; Dayley, Tom - FSA, Boise, ID <Thomas.Dayley@usda.gov>; De Jong, Amanda - FSA, Urbandale, IA

amanda.dejong@usda.gov; Eichhorst, James - FSA, Annapolis, MD
james.eichhorst@usda.gov; Elgohary, Nivin - FSA, Richmond, VA
nivin.elgohary2@usda.gov; Foster, Michael - FSA, Bozeman, MT
michael.foster@usda.gov; Frenzel, Allen - FSA, Honolulu, HI
allen.frenzel@usda.gov; Graff, William - FSA, Springfield, IL
william.graff@usda.gov; Groves, Gary - FSA, Harrisburg, PA
gary.groves@usda.gov; Hampy, Brent - FSA, Columbia, MO
Brent.Hampy@usda.gov; Holmes, Jeffrey - FSA, Concord, NH
jeffrey.holmes2@usda.gov; Hubert, Leonard - FSA, Columbus, OH
leonard.hubert@usda.gov; Johnner, Nancy - FSA, Lincoln, NE
nancy.johner@usda.gov; Johnson, Joel C. - FSA, East Lansing, MI
joel.c.johnson@usda.gov; Keeler, Chris - FSA, Hollister, CA chris.keeler@usda.gov;
 Kolvet, Janice - FSA, Washington, DC janice.kolvet@usda.gov; Lacefield, Brian - FSA,
 Lexington, KY brian.lacefield@usda.gov; Lavway, David - FSA - Bangor, ME
david.lavway@usda.gov; Mago, James - FSA, Phoenix, AZ james.mago@usda.gov;
 Martin, Joe - FSA, St Paul, MN joe.martin@usda.gov; McBride, Len - FSA, Raleigh, NC
len.mcbride@usda.gov; McCain, Craig - FSA, Alexandria, LA
craig.mccain@usda.gov; McCorkle, Sherry - FSA, Gainesville, FL
Sherry.McCorkle@usda.gov; McCurdy, David - FSA, Montgomery, AL
david.mccurdy@usda.gov; McKeon, Sean - FSA, Dover, DE
sean.mckeeon@usda.gov; Navarro, Clarice - FSA, Denver, CO
clarice.navarro@usda.gov; Peeler, Boone - FSA, Columbia, SC
boone.peeler@usda.gov; Perez, Wanda - FSA, San Juan, PR
wanda.perez@usda.gov; Putman, Clark - FSA, Syracuse, NY
clark.putman@usda.gov; Richeson, Bruce - FSA, Salt Lake City, UT
bruce.richeson@usda.gov; Rybicki, Daniel - FSA, Reno, NV
daniel.rybicki@usda.gov; Schemm, David - FSA, Manhattan, KS
david.schemm@usda.gov; Scoresby, Bryan - FSA, Palmer, AK
bryan.scoresby@usda.gov; Shubeck, Paul - FSA, Huron, SD
paul.shubeck@usda.gov; Six, Gary - FSA, College Station, TX gary.six@usda.gov;
 Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA tas.smith@usda.gov; Sullivan, Michael - FPAC-FSA,
 Warwick, RI michaelsullivan@usda.gov; Thykeson, Brad - FSA, Fargo, ND
brad.thykeson@usda.gov; Van Mark, Lois - FSA, Casper, WY
lois.vanmark@usda.gov; White, Michael - FSA, Albuquerque, NM
michael.white4@usda.gov; Wilton, Wendy - FSA, Colchester, VT
wendy.wilton@usda.gov
Cc: Matthews, David - FSA, Washington, DC david.w.matthews@usda.gov; Fordyce,
 Richard - FSA, Washington, DC richard.fordyce@usda.gov; Peterson, Steve - FSA,
 Washington, DC steve.peterson2@usda.gov; Browne, Peggy - FSA, Washington, DC
peggy.browne@usda.gov; Treese, Linda - FSA, Washington, DC
linda.treese@usda.gov

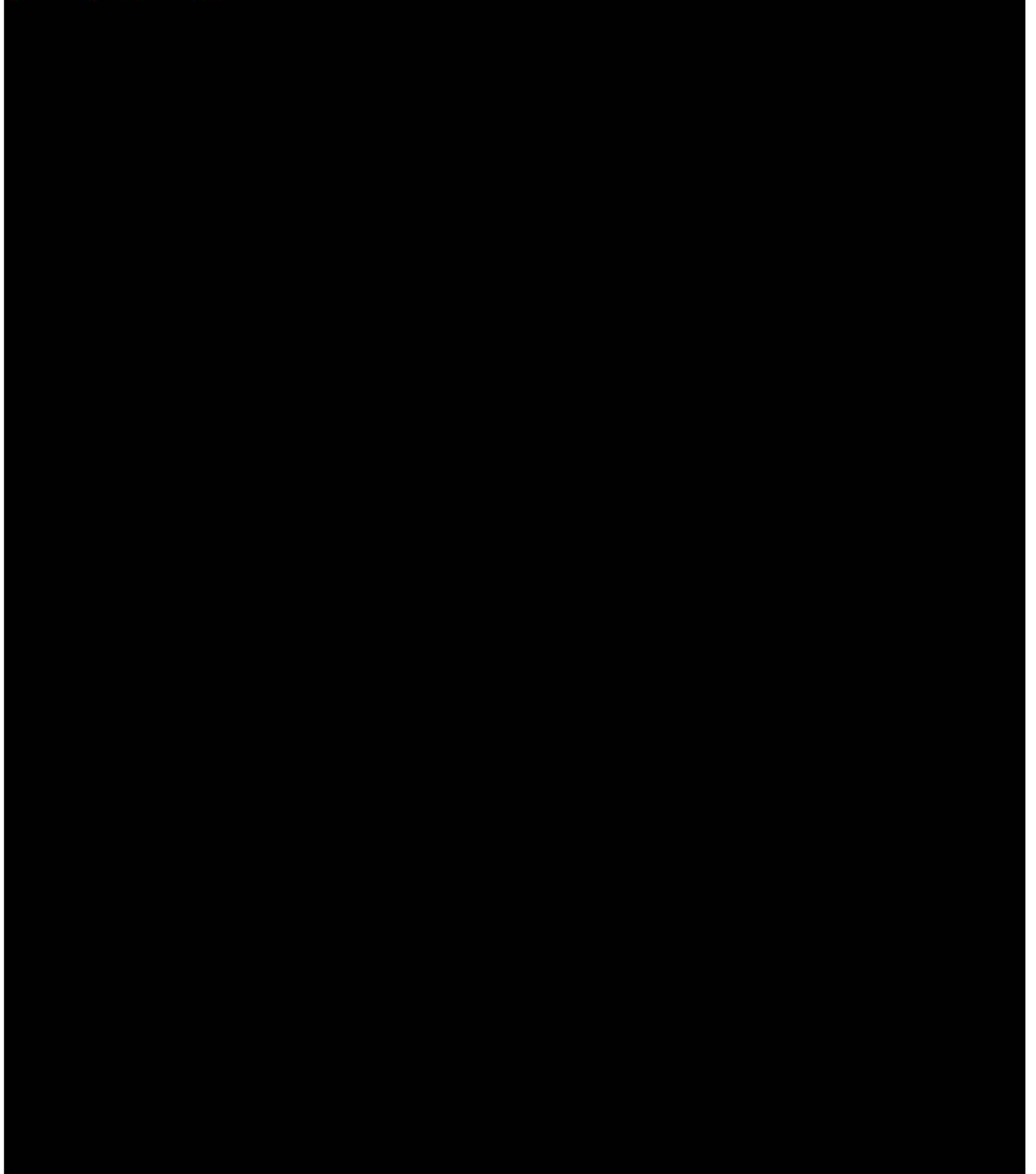
Subject: FW: (b)(5) -FPAC Deliberative
(b)(5) - Deliberative
RELEASE

SEDs,

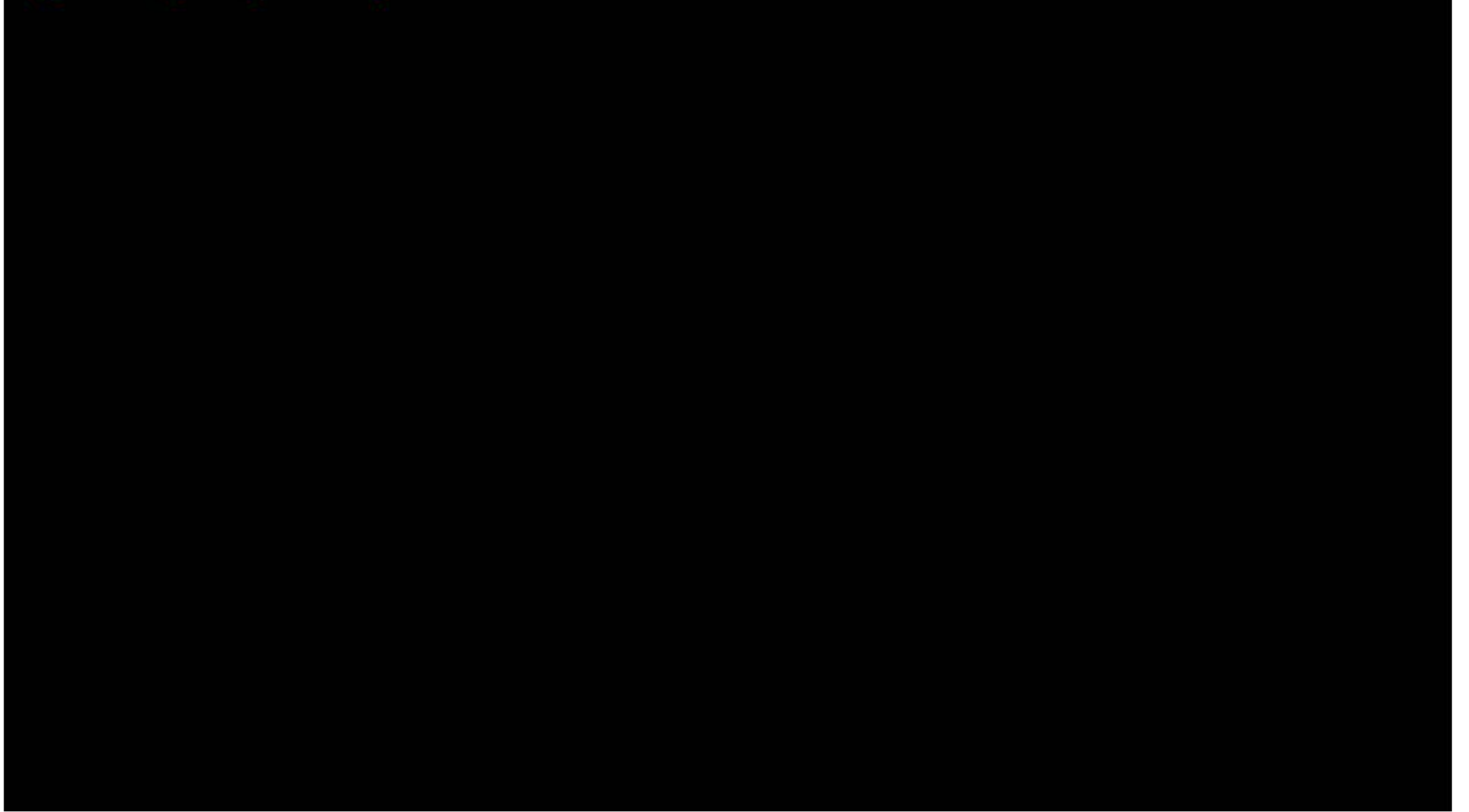
Per today's (5/23/19 11:00 AM EDT) call, attached is the press release material.

Thank you,
April

(b)(5) -FPAC Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 28 Jun 2019 13:09:59 +0000
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach
Attachments: TradeOp-Ed06-19.docx

Here's the trade op-ed. Not sure who else needs/wants to see it.

I'm still tinkering with it, but see if it's headed in the right direction.

Thanks.

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Alex,

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative?

[REDACTED] **FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative**
 [REDACTED] ?

I should have something for everyone to shoot at later today.

Thanks,

Dave

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:22 PM
To: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>; Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

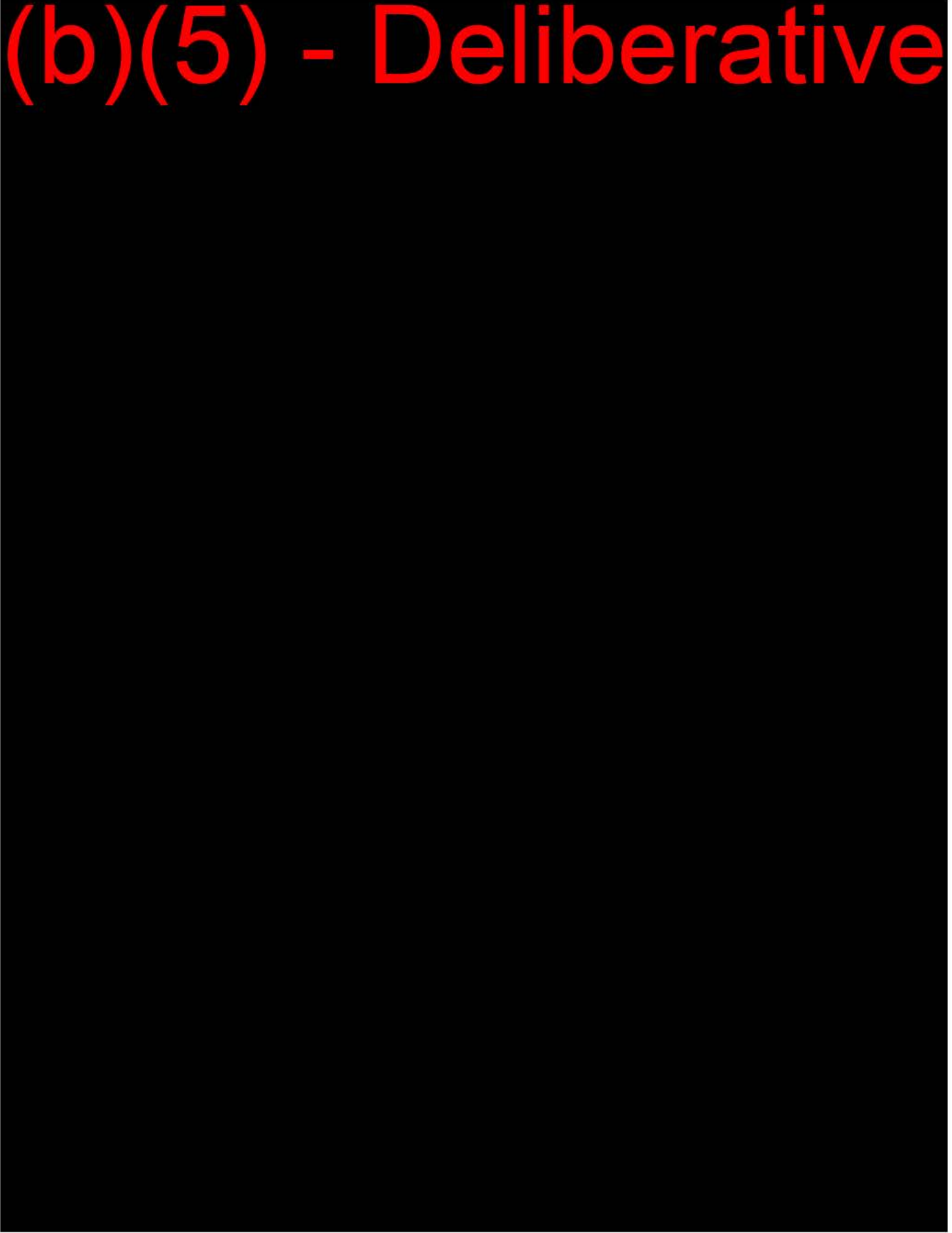
[REDACTED] **(b)(5) - Deliberative**
 [REDACTED] I will send those over once we have them. **(b)(5) - Deliberative**
 [REDACTED] **(b)(5) - Deliberative**

[REDACTED] **(b)(5) - Deliberative**

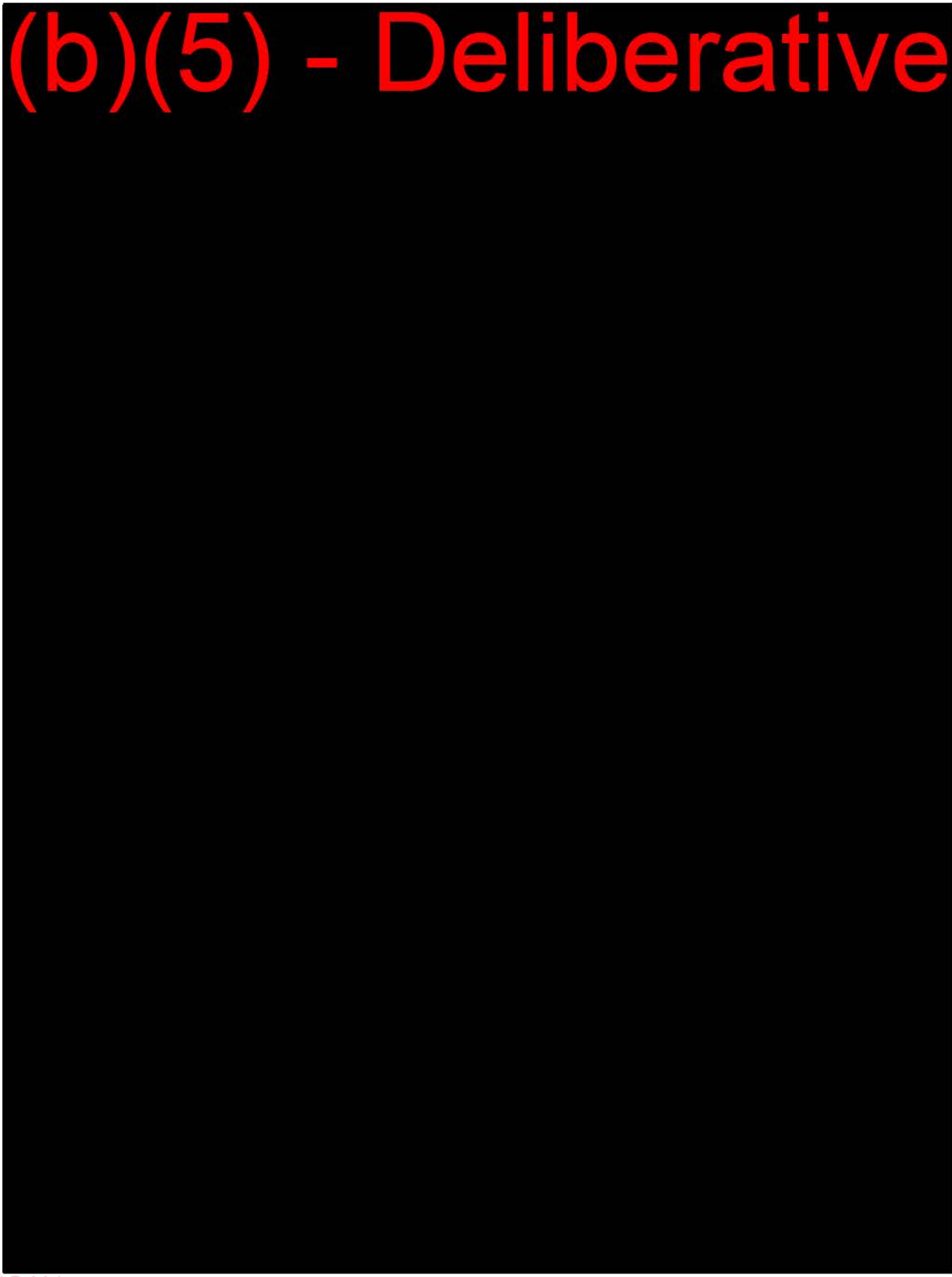
Here are the most recent talking points we have on China, USMCA, and support for farmers. (b)(5) - Deliberative
(b)(5) - Deliberative Let me know if you need anything else
from me.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

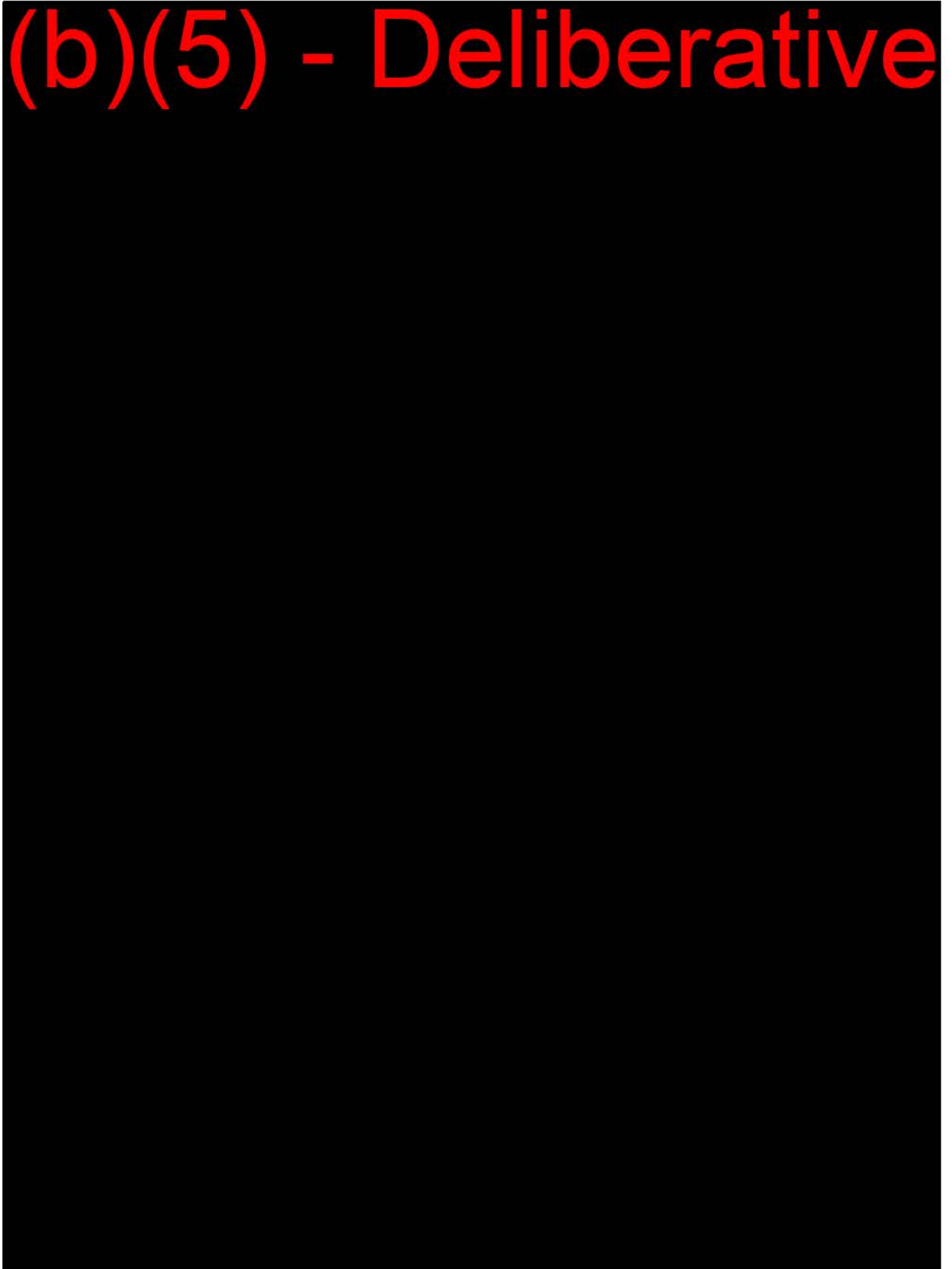
(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative

Alec Varsamis

From: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Hey Dave,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

I believe Alec will be supplying the talking points once they are complete.

Andrew

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

So a joint FPAC-AMS op-ed? (AMS for its part of the MFP?) And do you want it to **FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative**?

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

From: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: Trade Outreach

Dave,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

I've copied Alec on this email who be serving as the point person from OC to help us stay coordinated
(b)(5) - Deliberative

Let me know if you have any questions or how I can be of assistance.

Best,



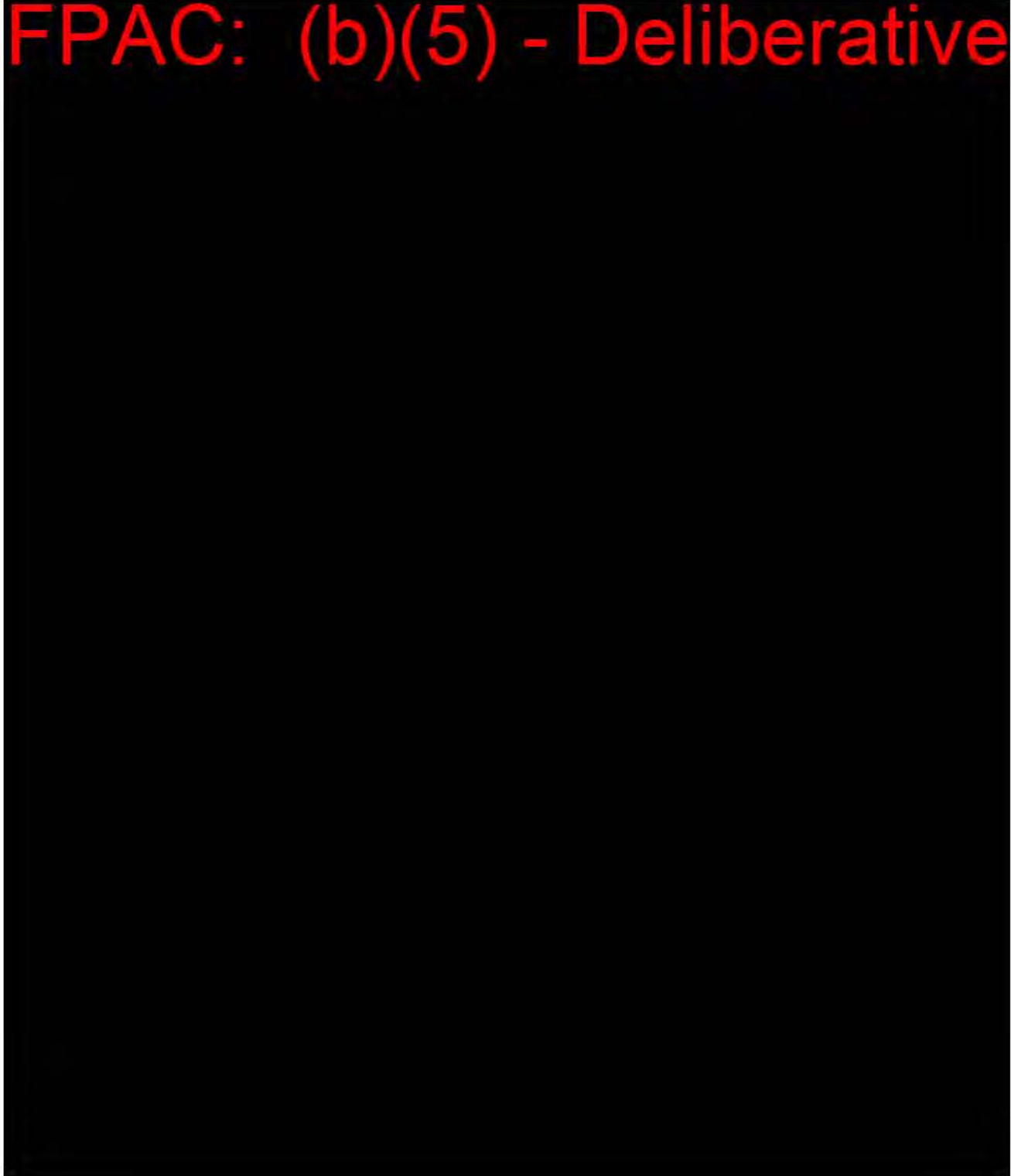
Andrew Fisher

Confidential Assistant
Office of the Under Secretary for FPAC
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-692-5298
Cell: (b)(5) - Deliberative

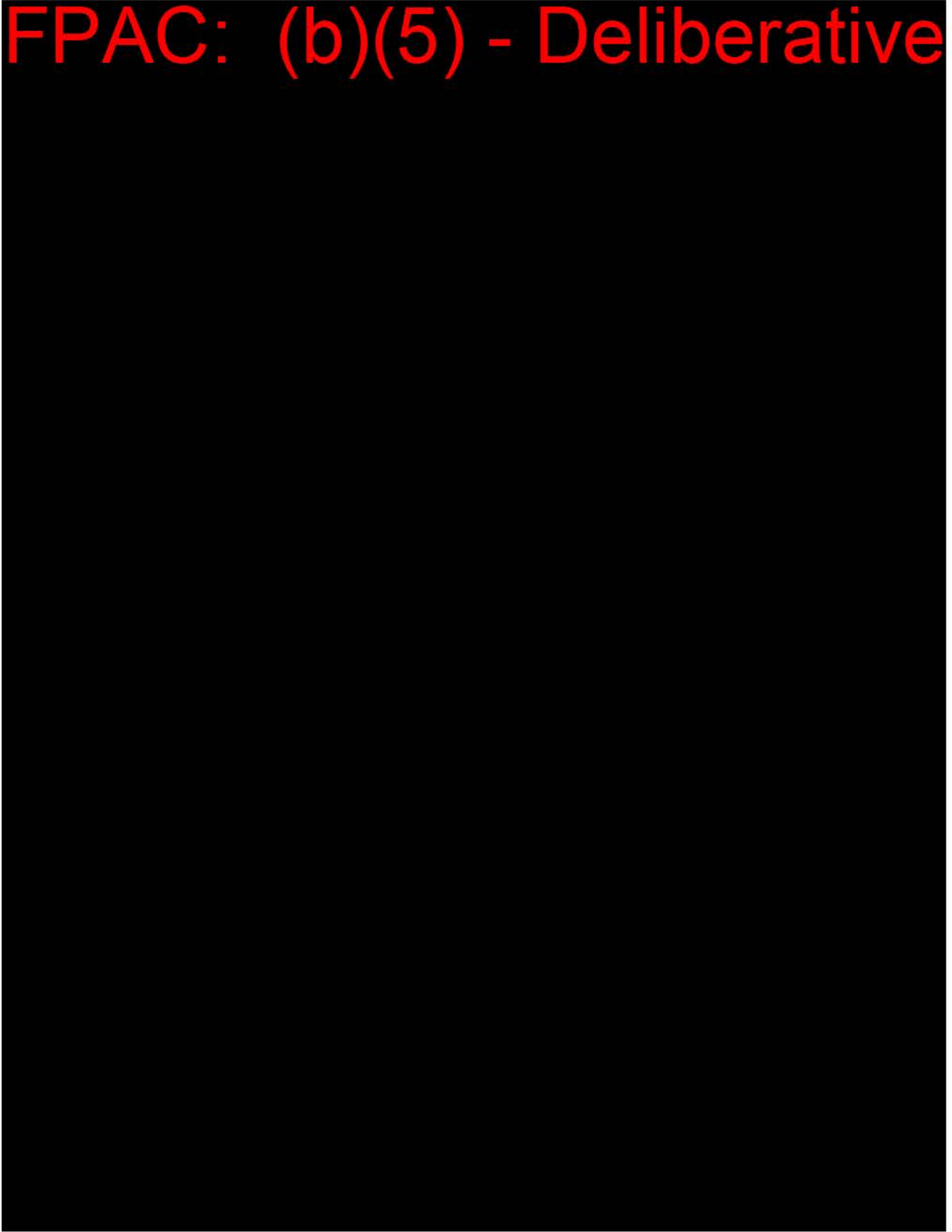
On Trade, President Trump Fighting For America's Farmers

By Under Secretary Bill Northey

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



A fourth-generation farmer from Iowa, Bill Northey is Under Secretary for USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area.

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 28 Jun 2019 19:28:12 +0000
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Alec,

One edit the Under Secretary had:

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

Thanks,

Dave

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Thanks for this – I will take a look and send edits.

Alec Varsamis

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Here's the trade op-ed. Not sure who else needs/wants to see it.

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Thanks.

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Alex,

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

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From: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:22 PM
To: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>; Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative I will send those over once we have them.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

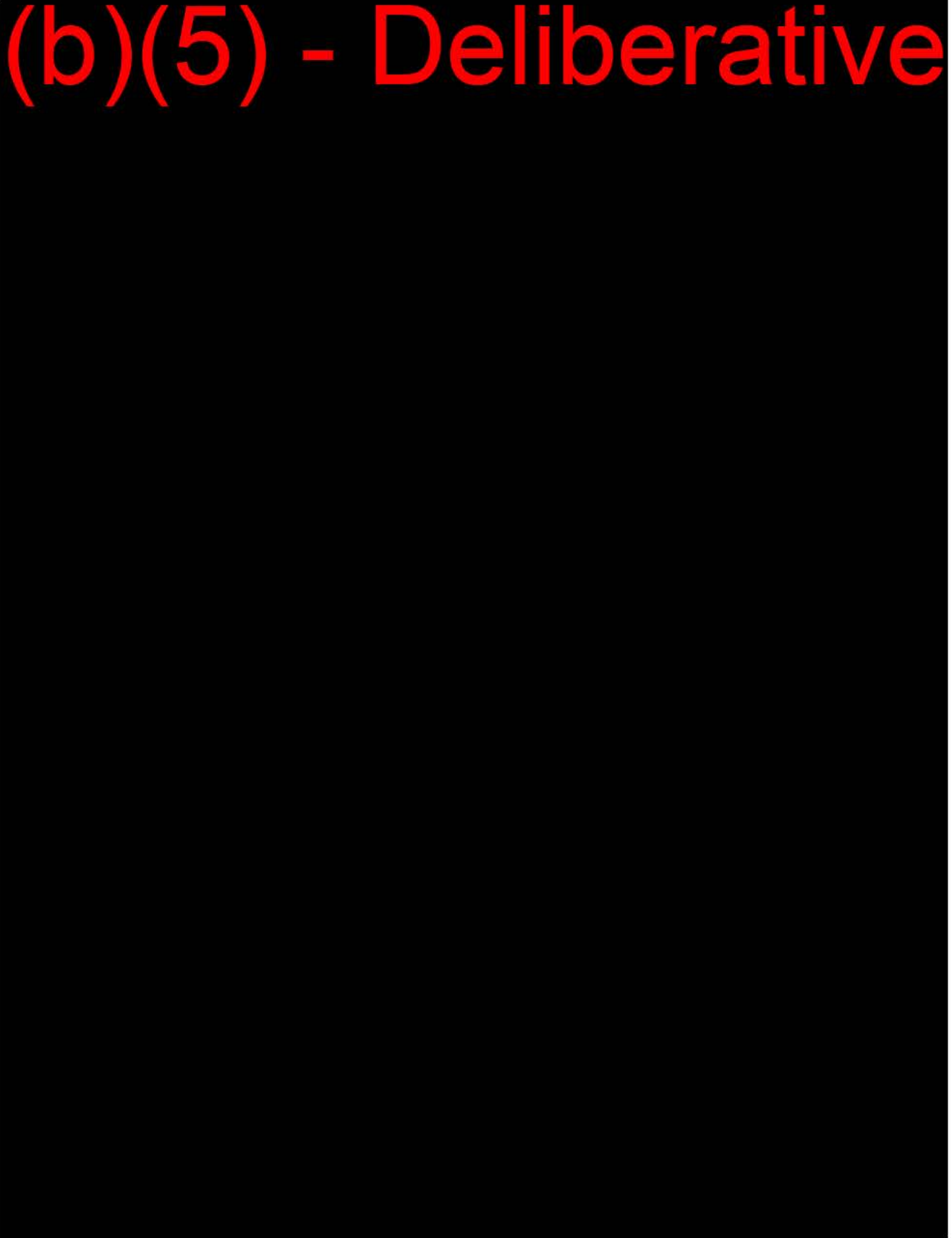
Here are the most recent talking points we have on China, USMCA, and support for farmers.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

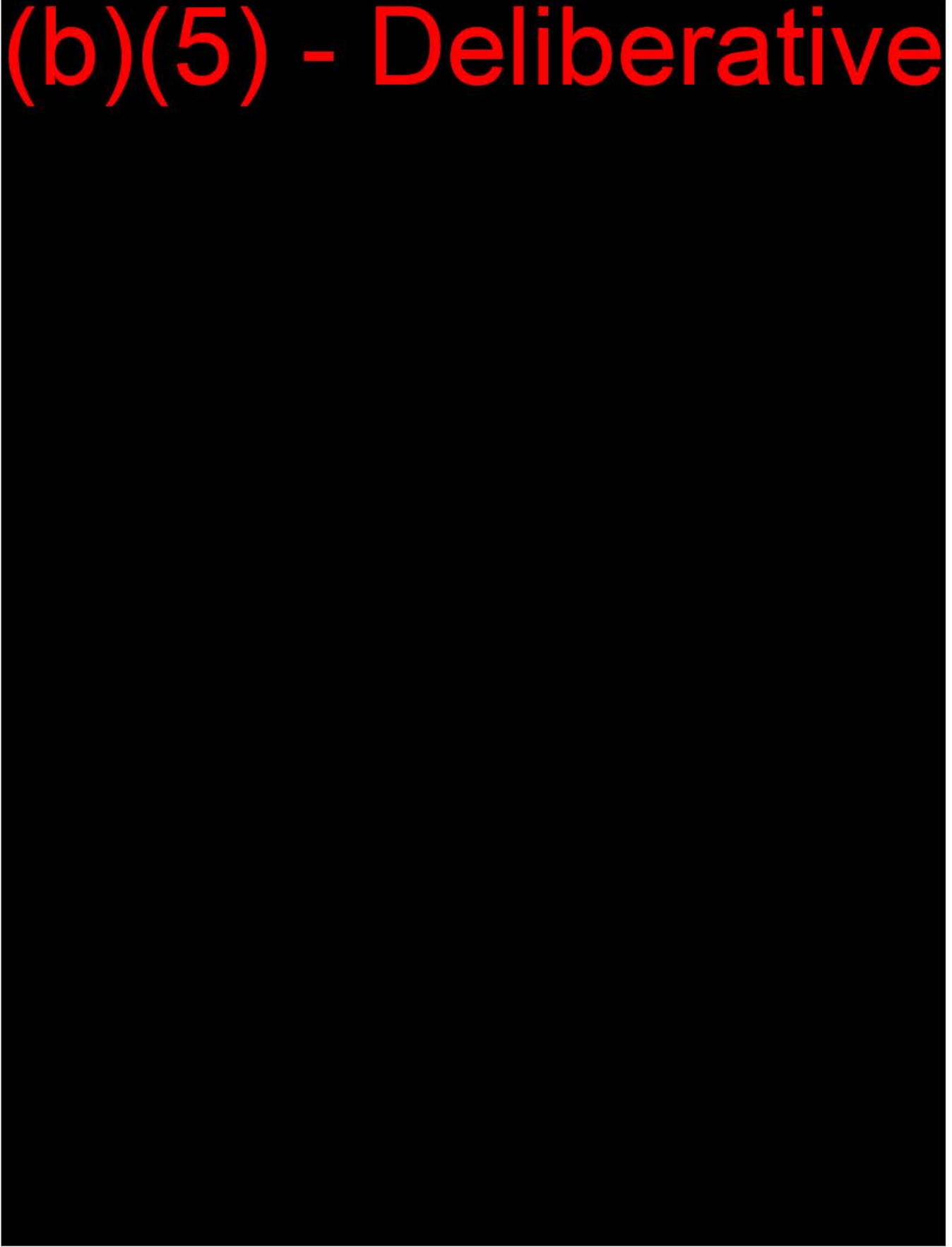
(b)(5) - Deliberative Let me know if you need anything else from me.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

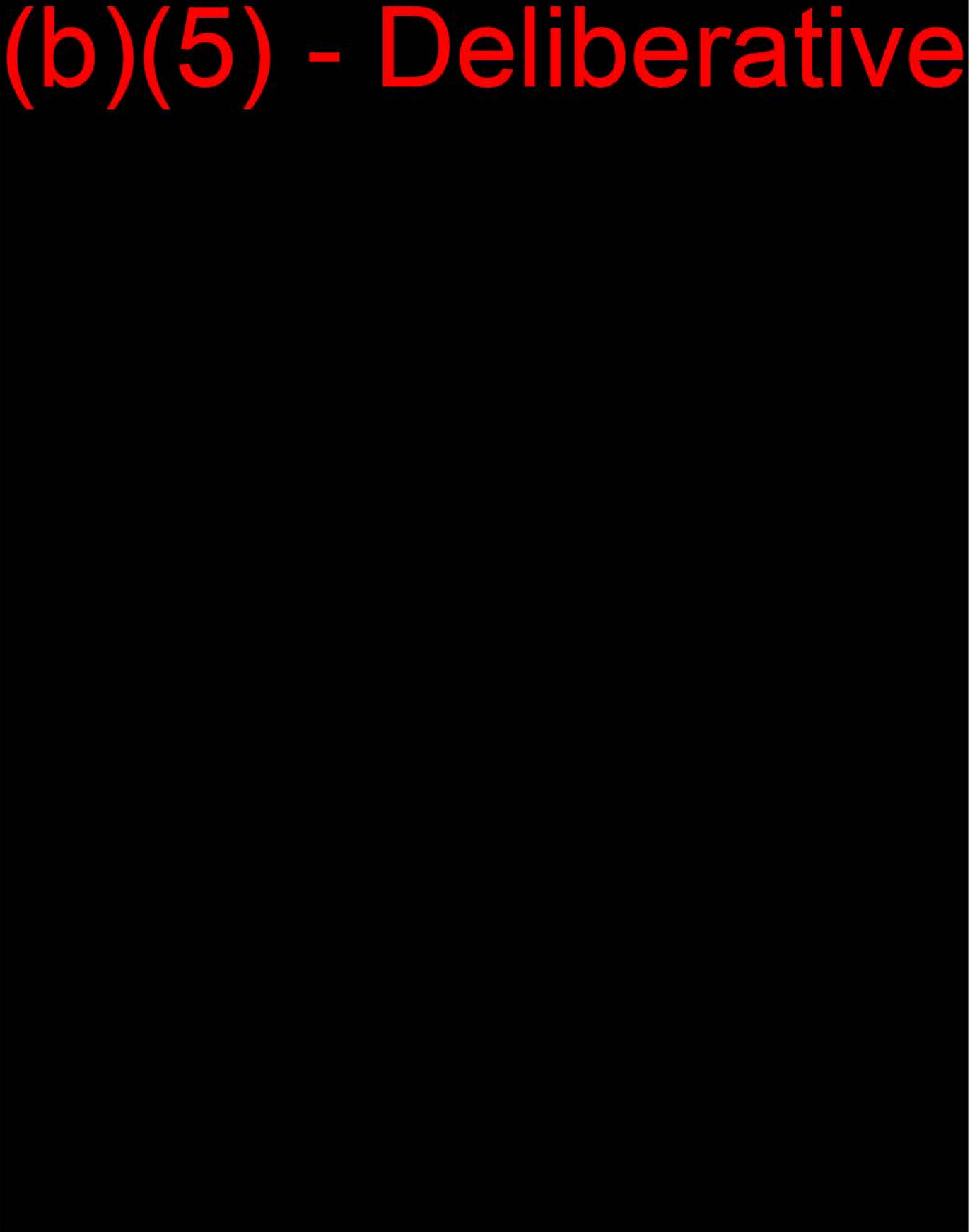
(b)(5) - Deliberative



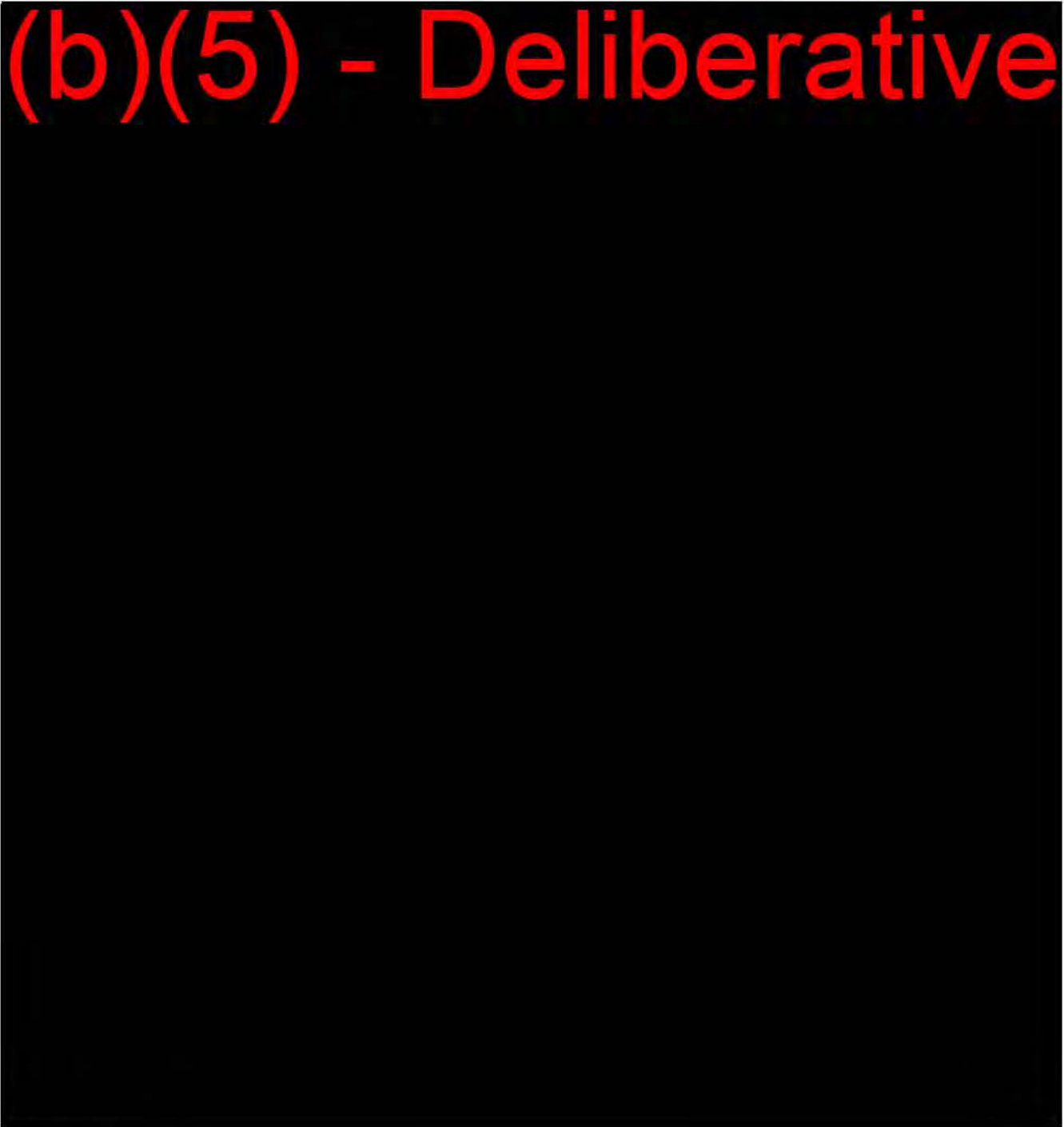
(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



Alec Varsamis

From: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

Hey Dave,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

I believe Alec will be supplying the talking points once they are complete.

Andrew

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC <andrewd.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Trade Outreach

So a joint FPAC-AMS op-ed? (AMS for its part of the MFP?) And do you want it to

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

From: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: Trade Outreach

Dave,

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

I've copied Alec on this email who be serving as the point person from OC to help us stay coordinated with our messaging.

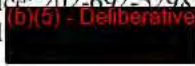
Let me know if you have any questions or how I can be of assistance.

Best,



Andrew Fisher

Confidential Assistant
Office of the Under Secretary for FPAC
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-692-5298
Cell: (b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 22 Jul 2019 12:48:47 +0000
To: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Subject: Soybean Meeting
Attachments: NortheyBriefer_SoybeanAssociations07-24-19.docx

Andrew,

Attached are talking points for the Under Secretary's meeting(s) with the Iowa and Missouri Soybean Associations. I took out the **FPAC, (b)(5) - Deliberative** although there's still background on the agreement just in case he is asked a question.

The first three pages are the talking points; the rest is detailed background information.

Dave Warner

**Director, External Affairs
Farm Production and Conservation
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 4082
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250
Office: 202-720-7809
Email: David.Warner@usda.gov**

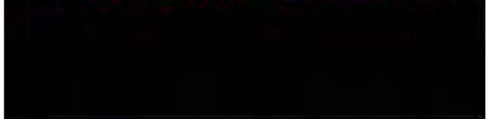
Briefing Paper for Under Secretary Bill Northey

Event(s): Iowa and Missouri Soybean Associations

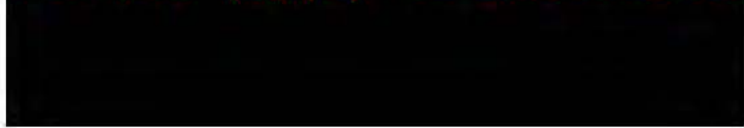
Date: Wednesday, July 24

Topics

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

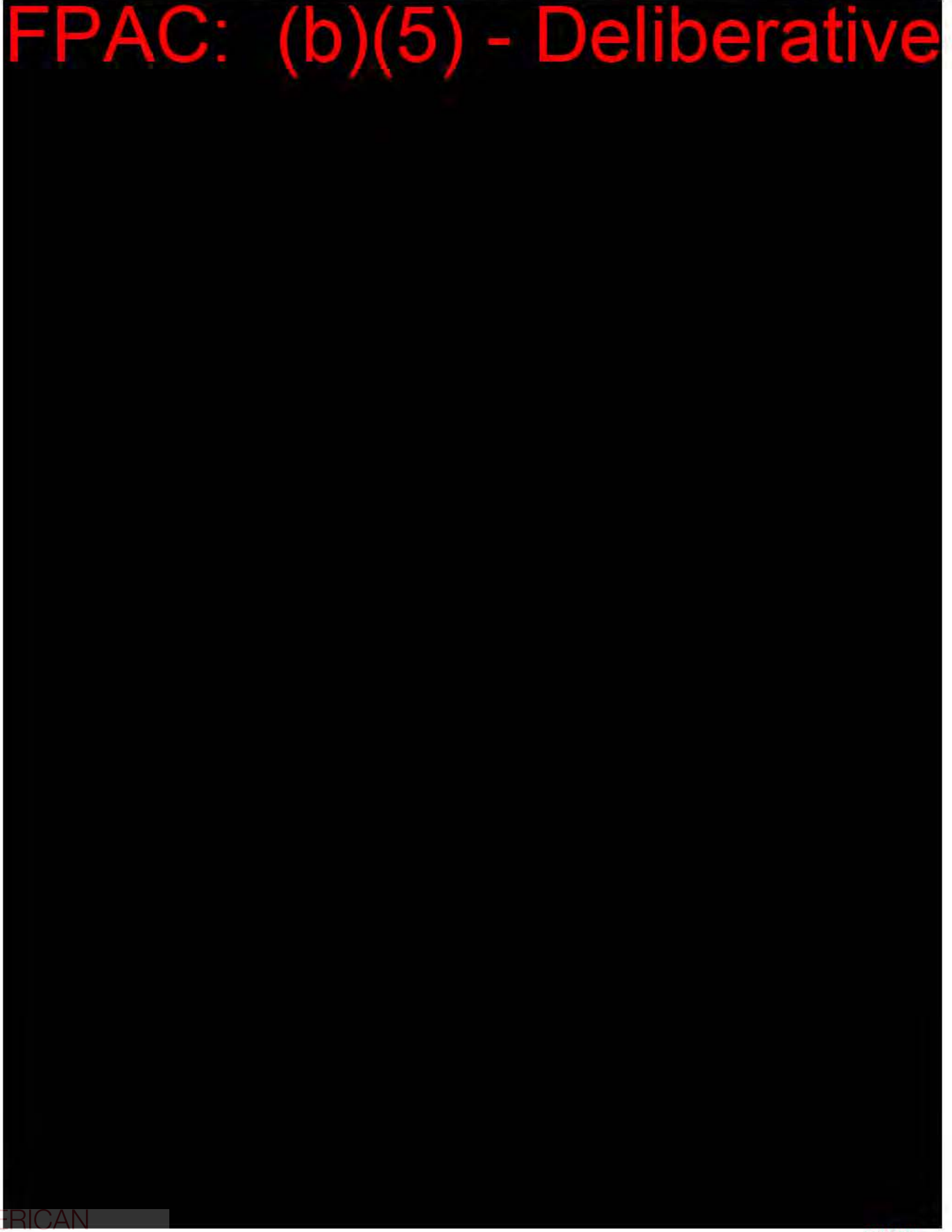
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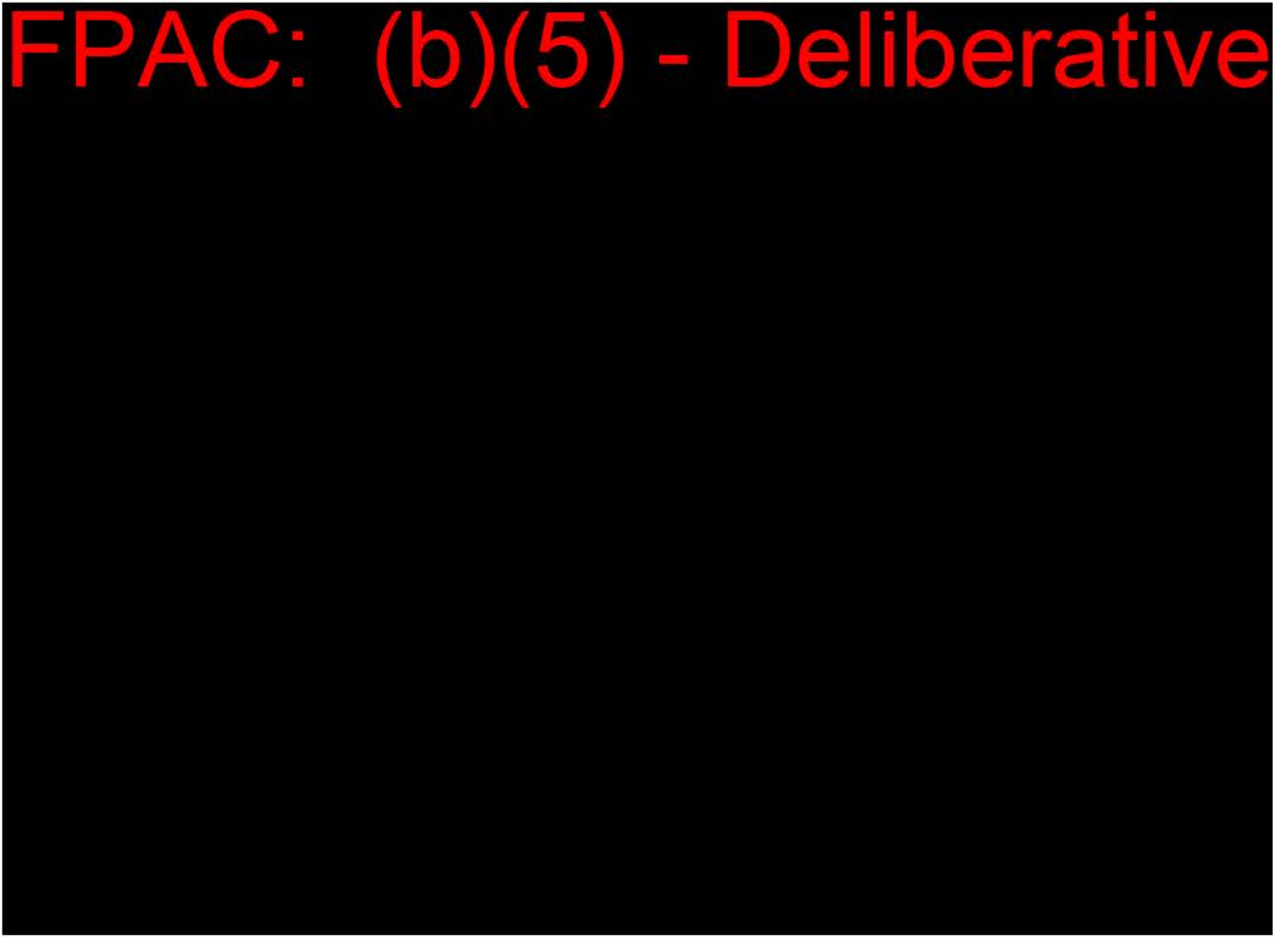
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Talking Points for Under Secretary Bill Northey

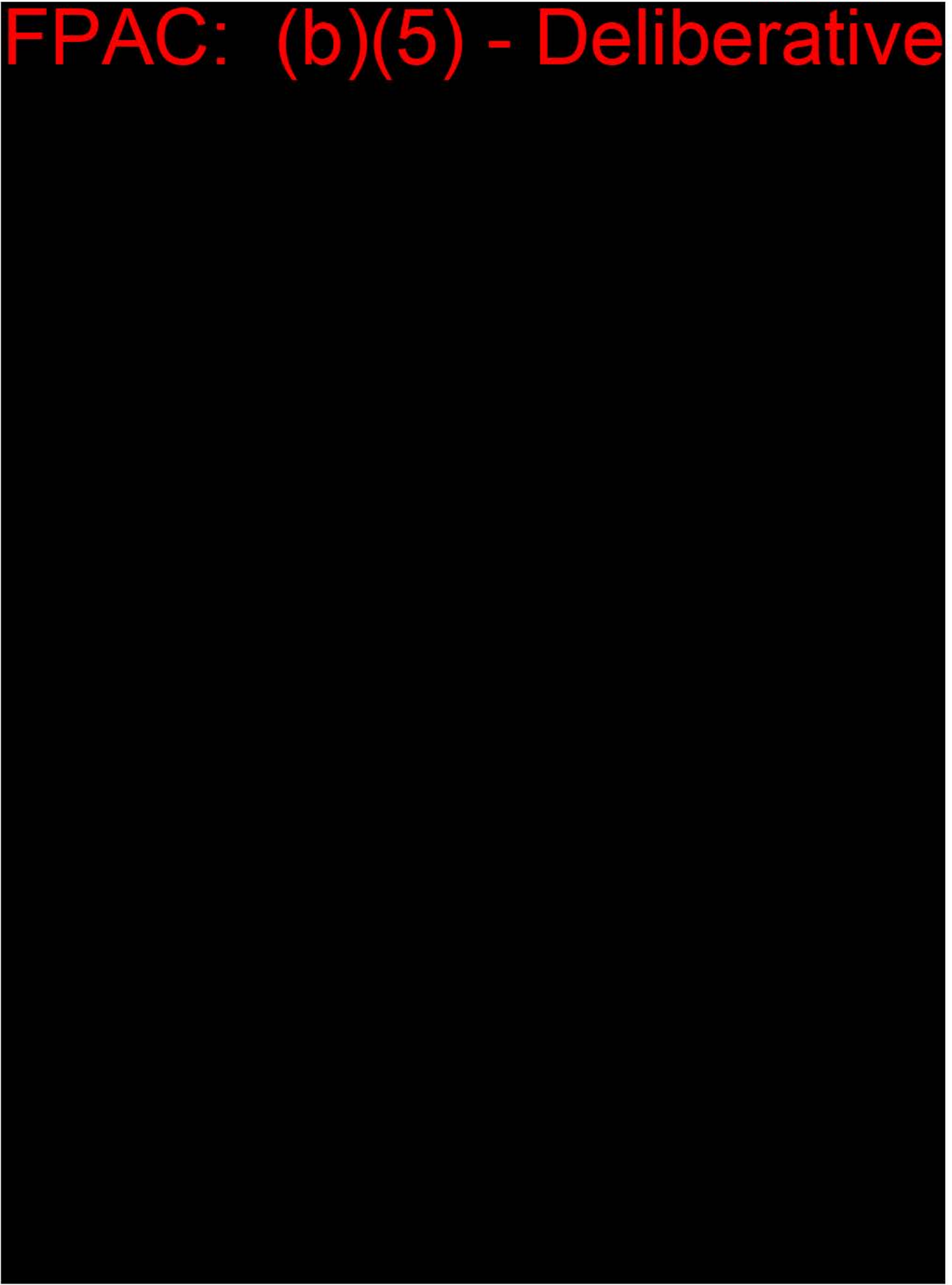
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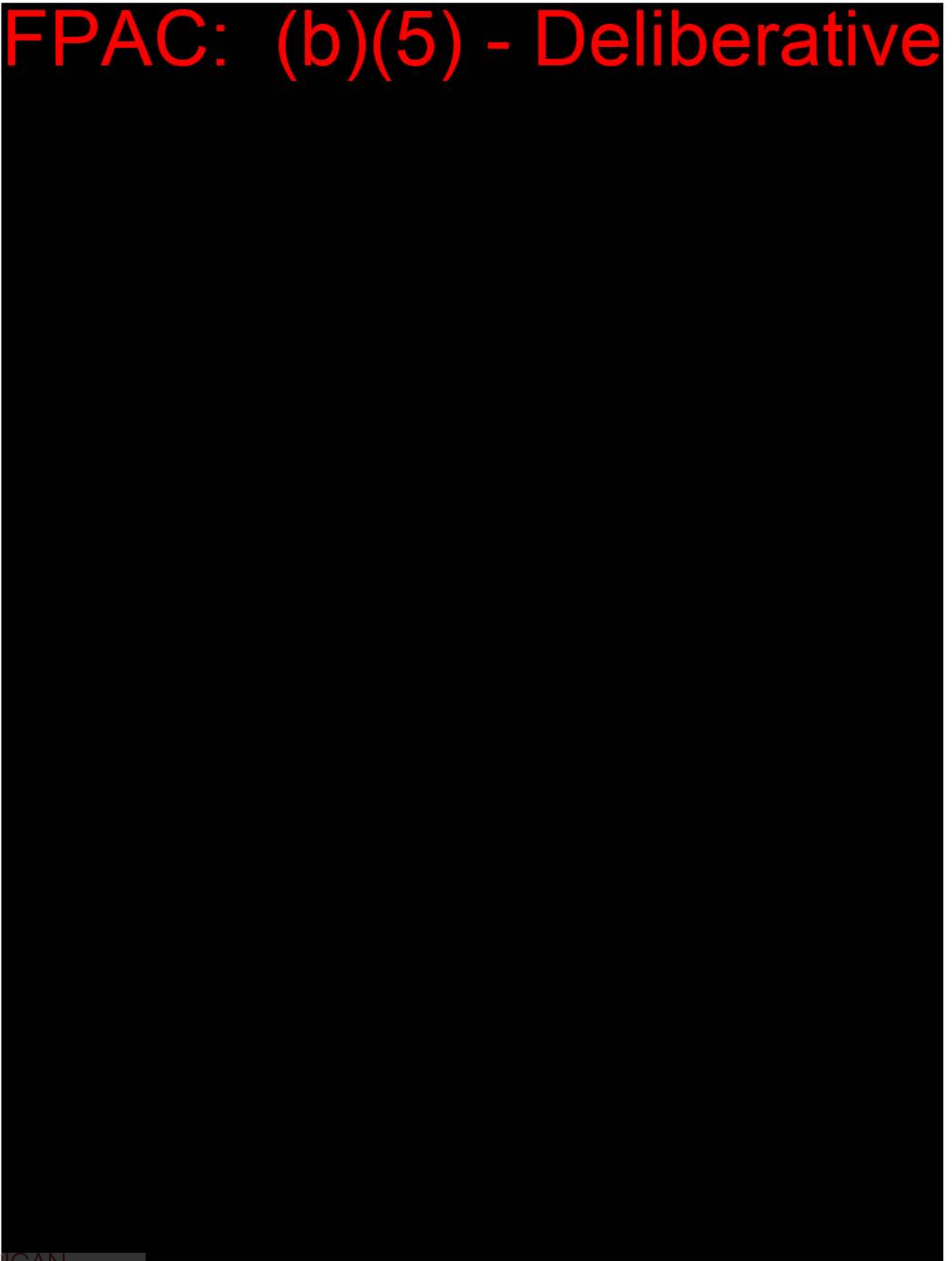
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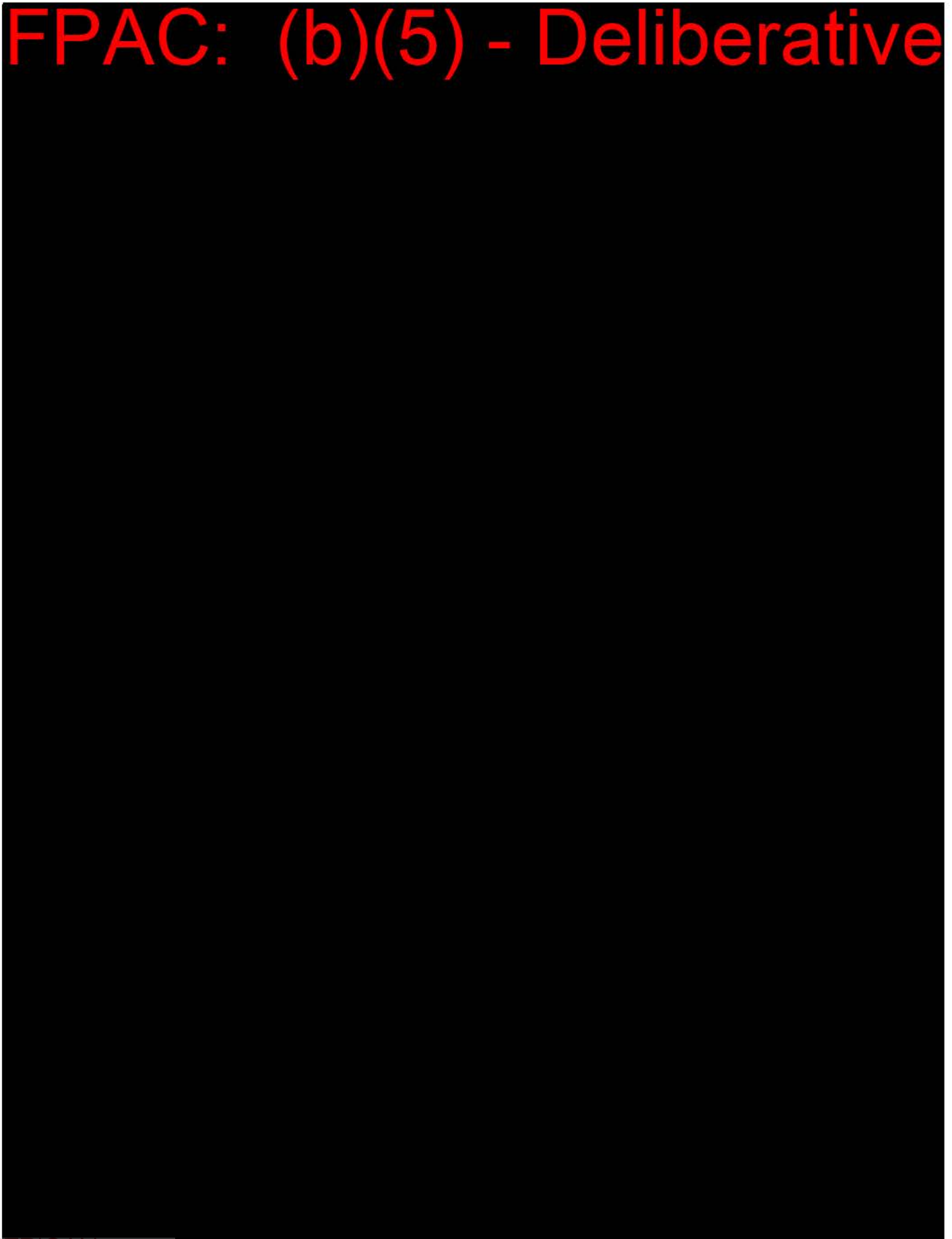
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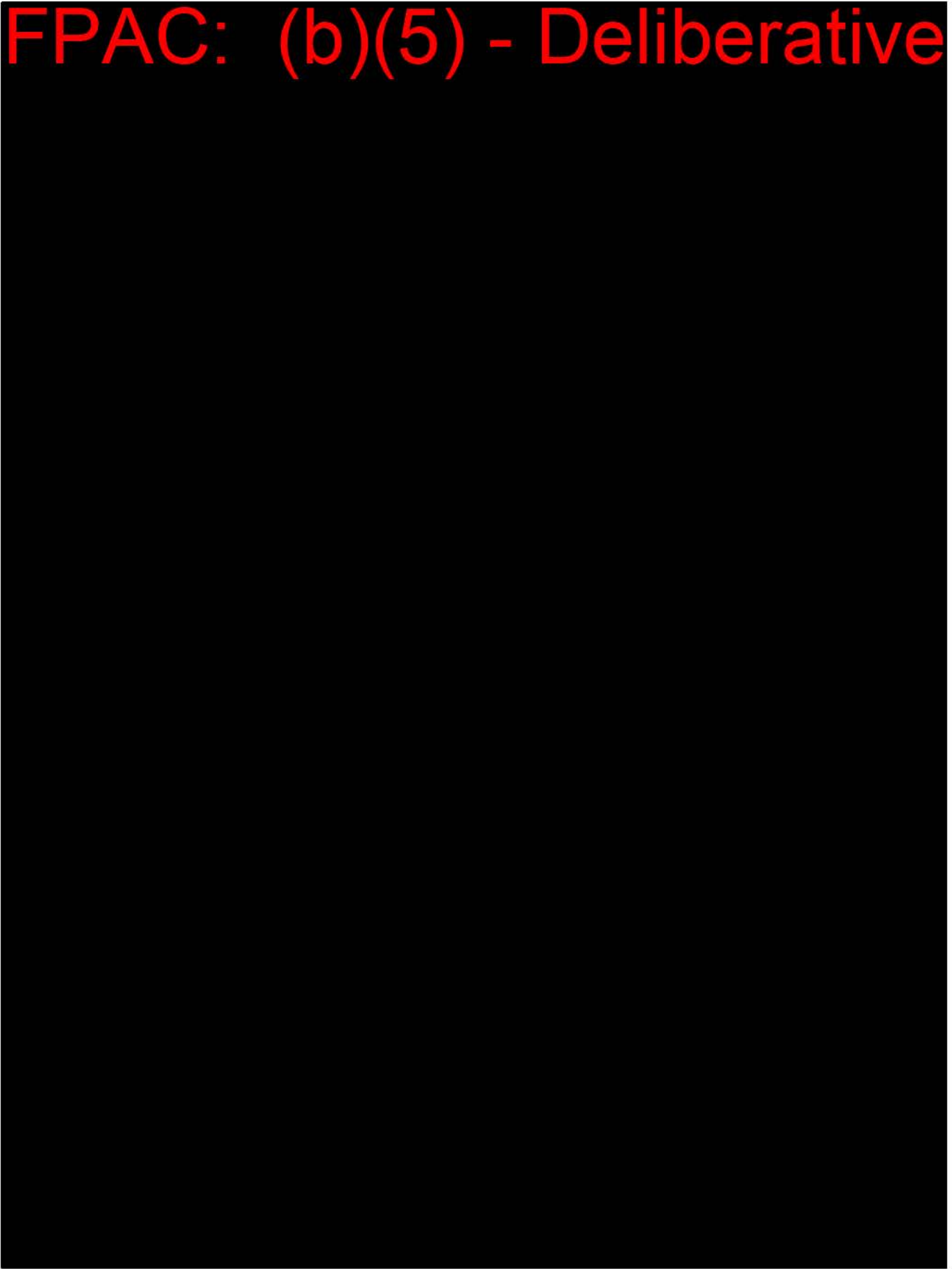
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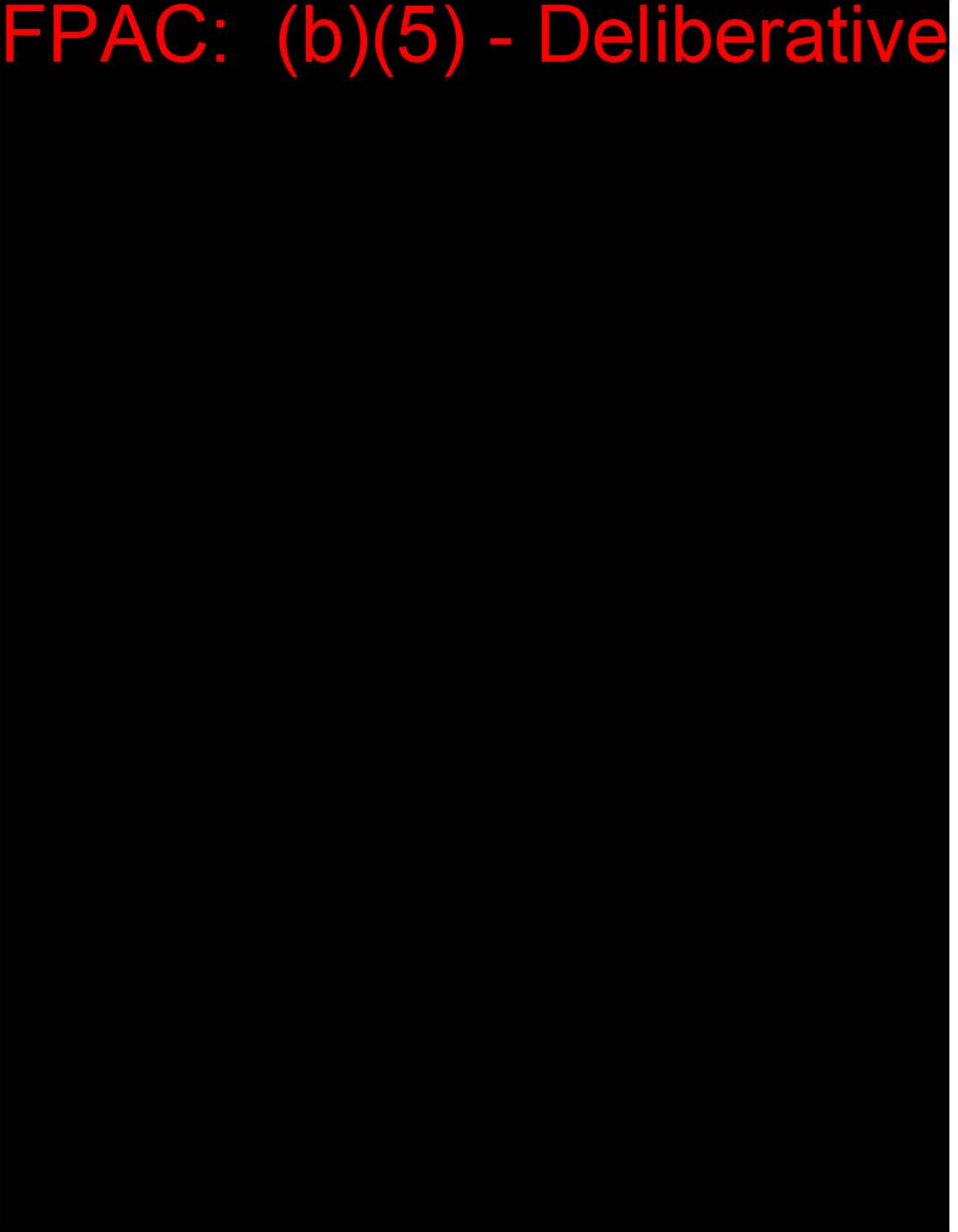
FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



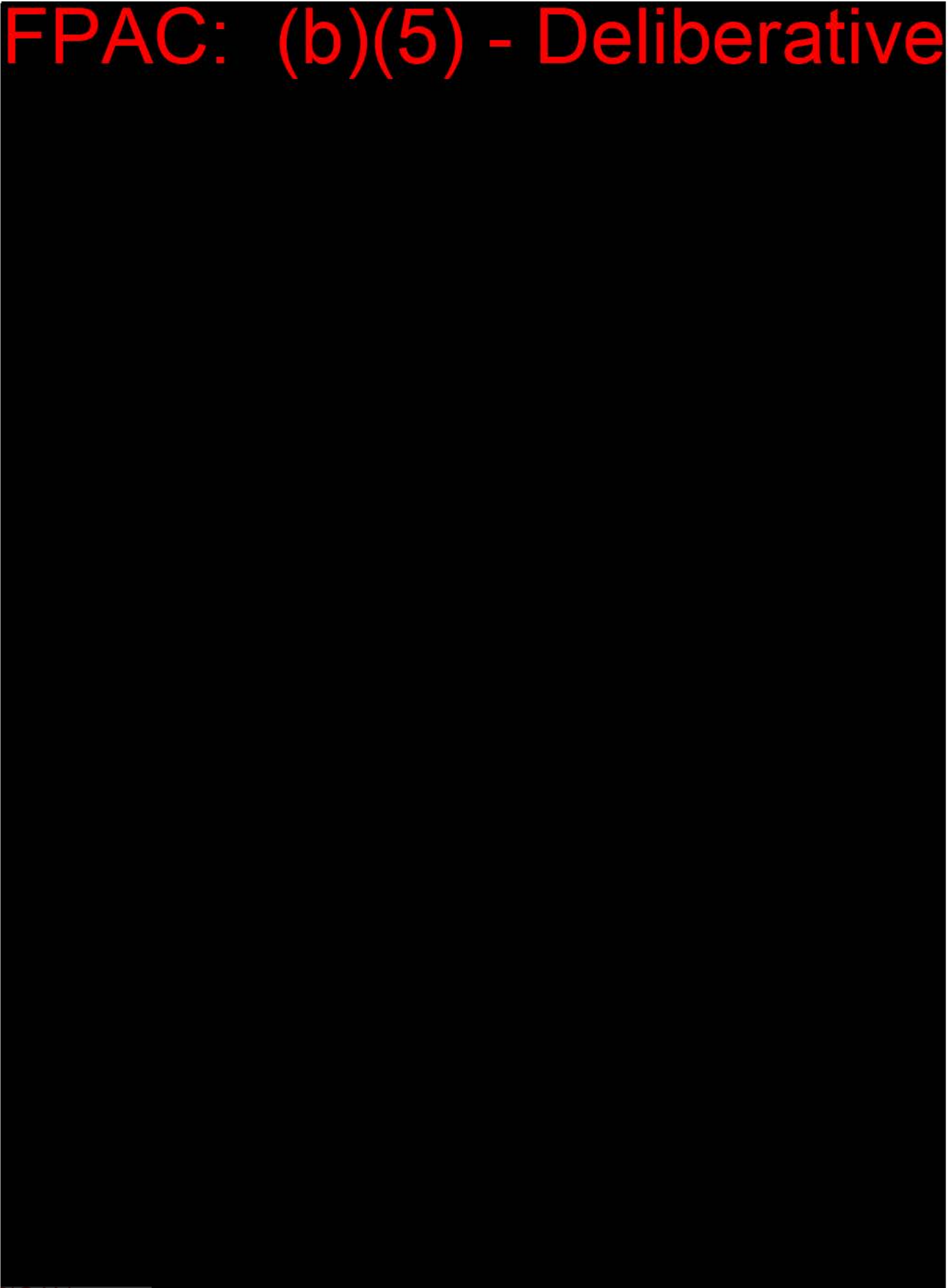
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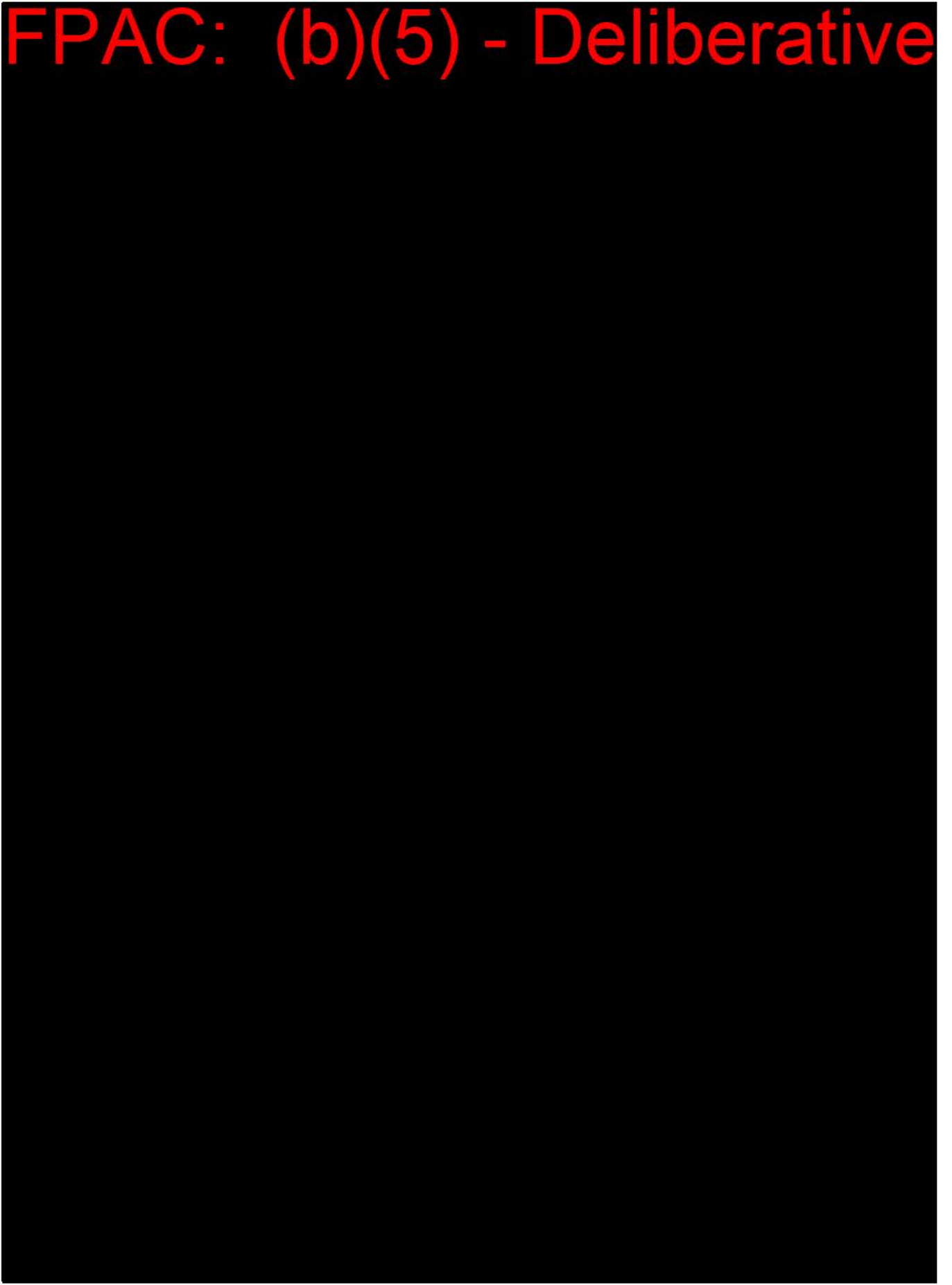
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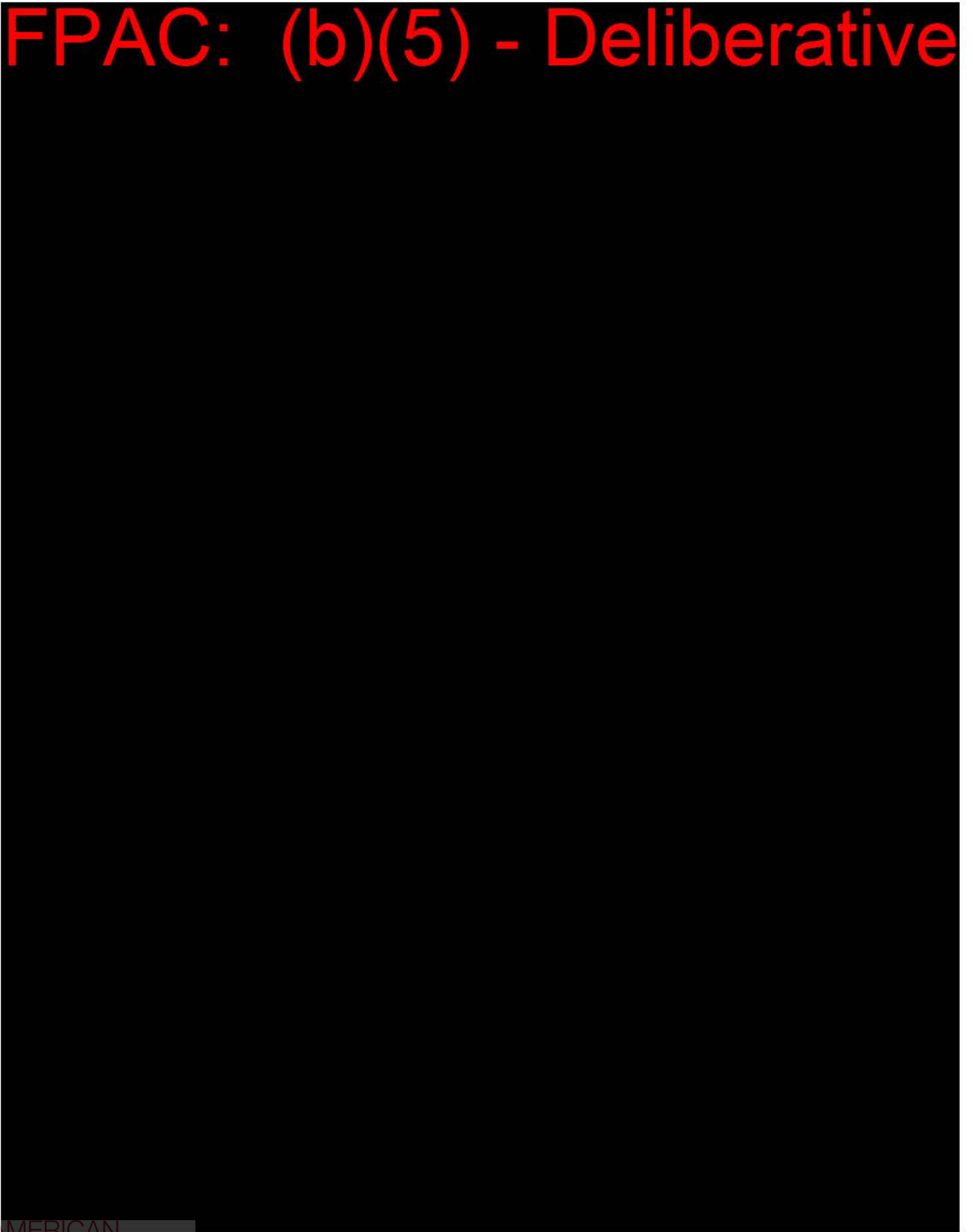
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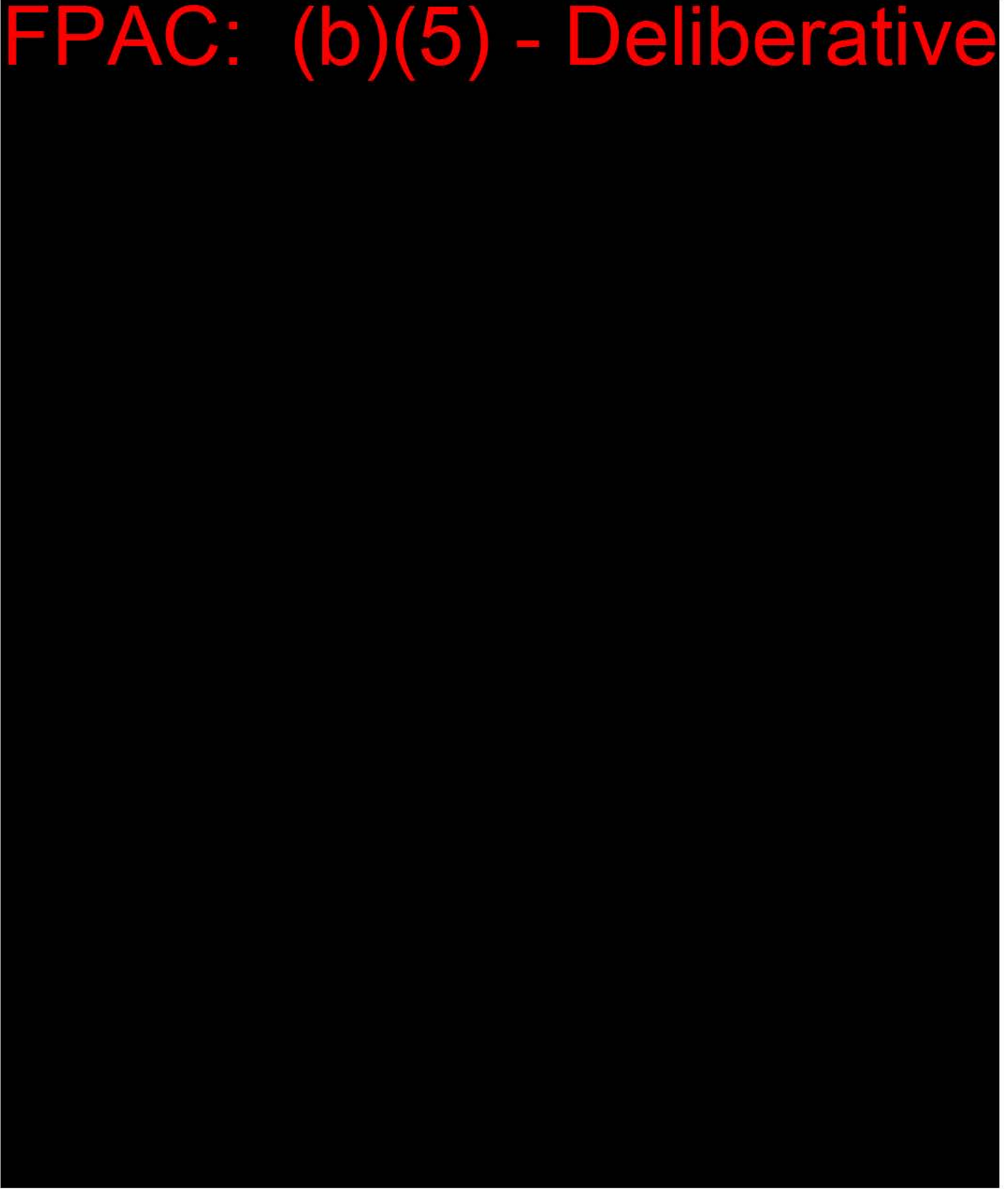
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FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC
Sent: 14 Aug 2018 21:12:58 +0000
To: Ruddy, Jack
Cc: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC; Christensen, Nick; Tvrdy, Joe
Subject: Re: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

Thanks, Jack. I've shared internally and we will get this in the system for a response, appreciate your bosses reaching out!

On Aug 14, 2018, at 1:48 PM, Ruddy, Jack <(b) (6)@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Peter and Andrew,

Please find the attached letter detailing the Missouri Republican Delegation's concerns with the proposed structure of the direct payments in the Administration's trade assistance package for farmers affected by foreign tariffs. We feel strongly that the state would be severely disadvantaged given the ongoing drought and that a calculation based on historical yields would be more equitable for our constituents.

Let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further. We stand ready to work with USDA to ensure this package is effective in providing the relief the Administration intended for our constituents.

Best,

Jack Ruddy
Legislative Director
The Office of Congressman Sam Graves (MO-6)
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-7041
Email: jack.ruddy@mail.house.gov

<MO Republican Letter to USDA on Trade Relief Package 8.14.18.pdf>

From: Sparks, Gwen - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 5 Jun 2019 18:56:58 +0000
To: Bailey, Jody - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Brown, Amie - FPAC-BC-FPAC, Washington, DC
Cc: Hawkins, Catherine - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Ledbetter, Deirdre - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Woodard, Myrlyn - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Niven, Janice - FSA, Washington, DC; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC; Phauls, Jewel - FSA, Washington, DC; Hereth, Kelly - FSA, Washington, DC; Brown, Amie - FPAC-BC-FPAC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Please Expedite ASAP Today ABE: 2019-05-16-125610
Attachments: Thune 125610 - REVISED 6-5-19.docx, USDA Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption.docx

Hello all,

Attached is the Thune letter that FPAC as requested be expedited, along with a hard copy of the press release referenced in the document to be enclosed with the letter when it is sent.

The language is pre-approved so I think everything is in order.

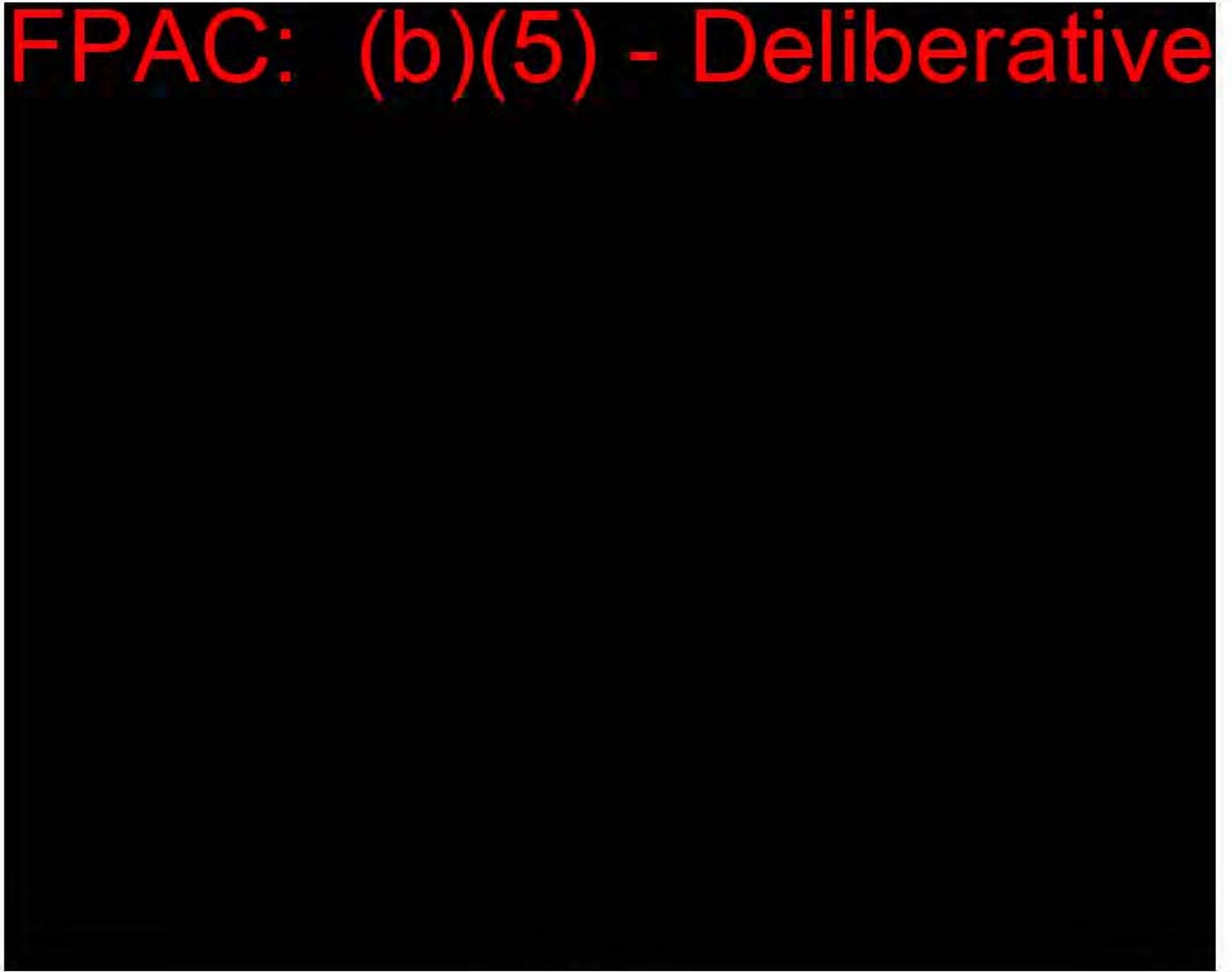
Please move this back into the process or let me know if something is missing or needs to be corrected. Thanks to each of you for your help in this process.

Gwen

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue

Secretary

Enclosure

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

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United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Office of Communications / press@oc.usda.gov

Release No. 0078.19

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption

(WASHINGTON, May 23, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will take several actions to assist farmers in response to trade damage from unjustified retaliation and trade disruption. President Trump directed Secretary Perdue to craft a relief strategy to support American agricultural producers while the Administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets in the long run to help American farmers compete globally. Specifically, the President has authorized USDA to provide up to \$16 billion in programs, which is in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions. These programs will assist agricultural producers while President Trump works to address long-standing market access barriers.

“China hasn’t played by the rules for a long time and President Trump is standing up to them, sending the clear message that the United States will no longer tolerate their unfair trade practices, which include non-tariff trade barriers and the theft of intellectual property. President Trump has great affection for America’s farmers and ranchers, and he knows they are bearing the brunt of these trade disputes. In fact, I’ve never known of a president that has been more concerned or interested in farmer wellbeing and long-term profitability than President Trump,” said Secretary Perdue. “The plan we are announcing today ensures farmers do not bear the brunt of unfair retaliatory tariffs imposed by China and other trading partners. Our team at USDA reflected on what worked well and gathered feedback on last year’s program to make this one even stronger and more effective for farmers. Our farmers work hard, are the most productive in the world, and we aim to match their enthusiasm and patriotism as we support them.”

Background:

American farmers have dealt with unjustified retaliatory tariffs and years of non-tariff trade disruptions, which have curtailed U.S. exports to China. Trade damages from such retaliation and market distortions have impacted a host of U.S. commodities, including crops like soybeans, corn, wheat, cotton, rice, and sorghum; livestock products like milk and pork; and many fruits, nuts, and other crops. High tariffs disrupt normal marketing patterns, raising costs by forcing commodities to find new markets. Additionally, American goods shipped to

China have been slowed from reaching market by unusually strict or cumbersome entry procedures, which affect the quality and marketability of perishable crops. These boost marketing costs and unfairly affect our producers. USDA will use the following programs to assist farmers:

- **Market Facilitation Program (MFP)** for 2019, authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will provide \$14.5 billion in direct payments to producers.
 - Producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, upland cotton, and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019, and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Moreover, total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.
 - Dairy producers will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history and hog producers will receive a payment based on hog and pig inventory for a later-specified time frame.
 - Tree nut producers, fresh sweet cherry producers, cranberry producers, and fresh grape producers will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of production.
 - These payments will help farmers to absorb some of the additional costs of managing disrupted markets, to deal with surplus commodities, and to expand and develop new markets at home and abroad.
 - Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. The first tranche will begin in late July/early August as soon as practical after Farm Service Agency crop reporting is completed by July 15th. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.
- Additionally, CCC Charter Act authority will be used to implement a \$1.4 billion **Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP)** through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to purchase surplus commodities affected by trade retaliation such as fruits, vegetables, some processed foods, beef, pork, lamb, poultry, and milk for distribution by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to food banks, schools, and other outlets serving low-income individuals.
- Finally, the CCC will use its Charter Act authority for \$100 million to be issued through the **Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP)** administered by the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) to assist in developing new export markets on behalf of producers.

Further details regarding eligibility and payment rates will be released at a later date.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

From: vpeterson@uswheat.org
Sent: 16 Aug 2018 14:40:07 -0400
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Further thought to our meeting with Undersecretary McKinney
Attachments: Trade Damage - Losses China and Mexico July 2018.pdf, Tariff One Pager.pdf

Actually, based on the Aug WASDE (and admittedly one change I had to make - as I had used estimated ending stox instead of beginning stox in the loss calculation, which wasn't a fair representation), I have just redone these. Premise is about the same -- bottom line value "loss" reduced just slightly.

Here's the most recent version: (by the way NAWG is using these today in a one-pager to growers -- I'll attach that as well)

Vince

Vince Peterson
 President
 U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
 3103 10th Street, North
 Arlington, VA 22201
 Telephone: (b) (6)

From: "Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
To: Peterson Vince - FASContact <vpeterson@uswheat.org>
Date: 08/16/2018 02:28 PM
Subject: RE: Further thought to our meeting with Undersecretary McKinney

I lost my hard copy of the slides you left us when you came to visit McKinney. Do you have another copy for me?

Thanks

jh

From: vpeterson@uswheat.org <vpeterson@uswheat.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 1:09 PM
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Charles Conner - FAS Contact <cbconner@uswheat.org>

Subject: Further thought to our meeting with Undersecretary McKinney

Jason, I am forwarding a very brief email exchange that I had this morning with our USW Board Secretary-Treasurer, Darren Padet, of Oregon. Just as background, Darren is a significant wheat producer in his own right, but since about the last week of June has literally been on the fire line on his own land and helping out those of his neighbors trying to save crops, property, wildlife, canyon and rangeland. Now, all while trying to harvest the portion of his own crops which have been unaffected by the fires.

But I mention this to you as I think that I may have actually overlooked an important point on crop marketing and damage/loss assessment.

In that packet of graphs that I left with you, I was trying just to point out the overall market damage that has and will incur under the current situation, but in retrospect I think failed to draw an important conclusion about the start and cadence of the damage suffered by wheat producers - and this point will be magnified for corn and soybean producers.

On the China wheat sale loss graph (#2), our loss of sales started on March 1st as buyers couldn't take the risk of their own government's retaliatory counter-tariffs which they assumed would come. By the time our current year new crop began on June 1, with virtually the entire wheat harvest laying yet out ahead, we had already "lost" 800,000 MT in sales compare to last year - from a total that reached nearly 900,000 MT in the 3rd week of July. Those losses were affecting the market for our 2017/18 old crop and all of its carryover.

Likewise, the Mexico wheat sale loss graph (#5), demonstrates quite clearly that the buyers reaction to tariff threats (NAFTA renegotiation, 20% across the board duties, 25% steel, aluminum and then autos), by switching from the US to other suppliers, actually can be tracked back to January, 2018. In this case, by June 1 when the new crop year began, we had already lost 900,000 MT of the total 1.3 MMT calendar year loss to July.

My admittedly personal analysis and conclusion in our meeting was that, this current trade impasse remaining for some indeterminate time, that the US wheat industry will likely lose 3 MMT of wheat sales. I might say that's a reasonable minimum. But of that 3 MMT loss, we already see that 1.7 MMT (China 800,000 MT and Mexico 900,000 MT) of that has already been incurred during the previous crop marketing year -- essentially January through May 2018. The rest of the expected loss is still ongoing and accumulating further losses every day that passes.

This then supports our request that both 2017/18 carry-in stocks be included in any damage calculation -- but then I believe also argues quite strongly that the damage/loss application deserves to be made over more than just the 2018 wheat harvest. At the very minimum, both 2017 and 2018 crops should be averaged, but I would personally urge USDA to consider a broader reference point - a 5 year average or a program yield base. NAWG may have a better sense of which measure is fairest. Wheat production has been a roller coaster in many recent years with wildly varying local conditions and performance. Just taking a single snapshot of the in-progress 2018 crop -- when in fact it's likely that nearly 60% of the anticipated sales loss has already occurred in the cadence of the previous crop year - seems to me like an inequitable point of measurement.

And as many growers these days are multi-crop producers, I feel some qualification to mention on their behalf that the corn and soybean losses to date are most definitely all attributable to their current marketing year's crops -- not what will be harvested later this fall in 2018. Like wheat, no doubt that their losses will continue to accrue for those crops into their 2018/19 new crop harvest.

Thanks for the opportunity to re-explore this specific point with you.

Regards, Vince

Vince Peterson
President
U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
3103 10th Street, North
Arlington, VA 22201
Telephone: (b) (6)

Re: Payment [Link](#)

Vincent Peterson

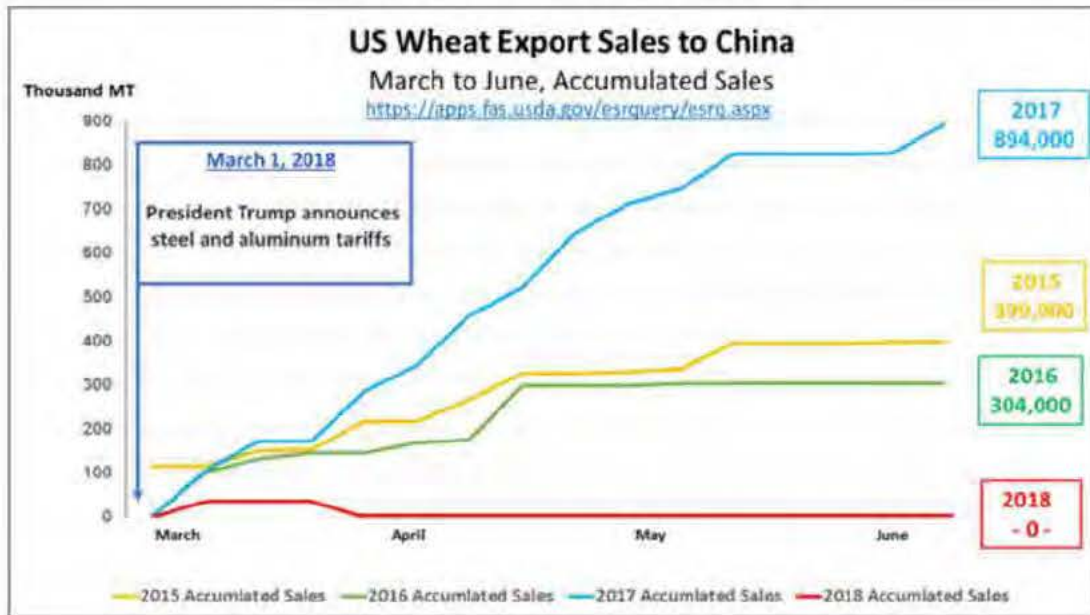
TO: Darren Padgett

08/02/2018 12:11 PM

Yeah ... this "market loss suffered from this current year's crop production" benchmark is a problem and we're trying to have that reconsidered in whatever formula is eventually applied. No idea what our success chance is, but we made our case at USDA and perhaps have an opportunity to do it again when we meet with OMB.

I'm going to go back and re-position these two graphs - as I used them at USDA just to demonstrate market loss and damage incurred -- but I didn't emphasize the fact the market loss on these graphs has primarily occurred in and during last years crop -- we're only 2 months into the 2019 crop. Corn and soybeans even more so as their harvests are still quite a ways off.

We'll keep working on it.



2.



5.

Vince Peterson
 President
 U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
 3103 10th Street, North
 Arlington, VA 22201
 Telephone: (b) (6)

From: Darren Padget [REDACTED] (b) (6)
To: Vince Peterson <vpeterson@uswheat.org>
Date: 08/02/2018 11:04 AM
Subject: Payment

There will be some pissed off people whose 100 bushel wheat burned.
Another fire west of Dufur now.

Darren

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Date: March 1, 2018

Patient:	US WHEAT EXPORTS, CHINA
Date of Birth:	June 1, 1972; Age 46
Prognosis:	On life support
Instructions:	Please Resuscitate

The Washington Post

Business

Trump announces steel and aluminum tariffs Thursday over objections from advisers and Republicans

By [David J. Lynch](#) and [Damian Paletta](#) March 1, 2018

... In a further slap at China, Trump announced the tariffs even as a top Chinese economic official was in Washington for talks aimed at forestalling a possible trade war.

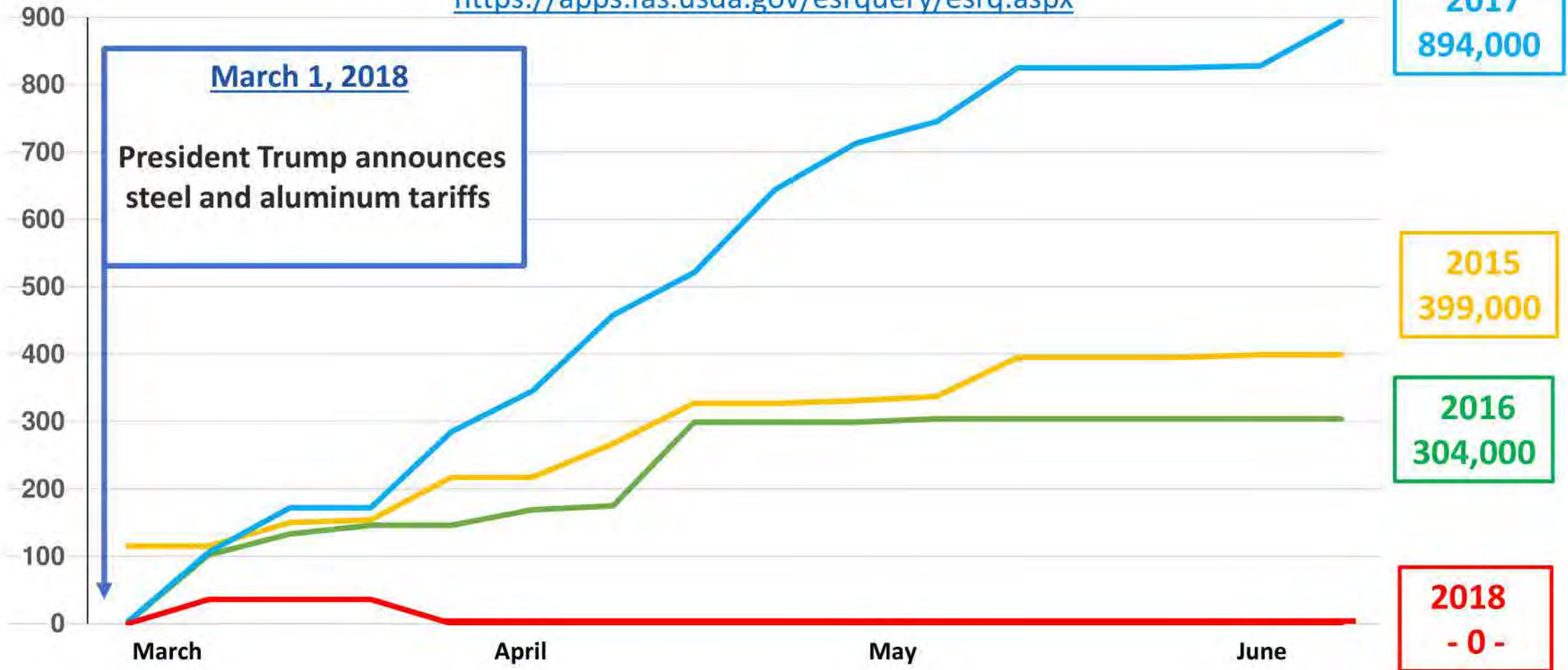
US Wheat Export Sales to China

2020-OSEC-03256-F

March to June, Accumulated Sales

<https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrq.aspx>

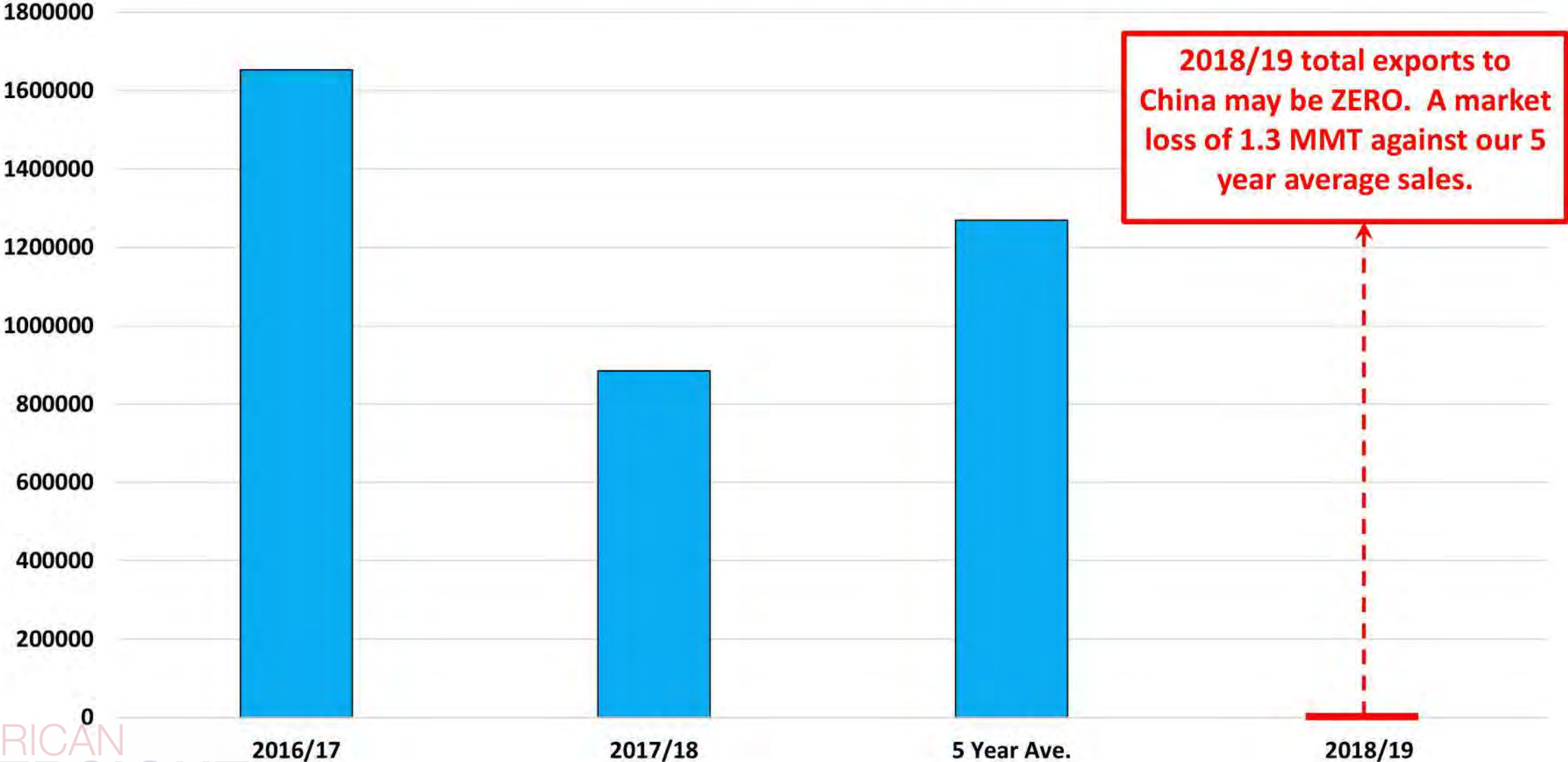
Thousand MT



— 2015 Accumlated Sales — 2016 Accumlated Sales — 2017 Accumlated Sales — 2018 Accumlated Sales

US Wheat Exports to China

2020-OSEC-03256-F



Trade spat with Mexico speeds U.S. decline as global wheat supplier - Reuters News

26-Jul-2018 06:00:00 AM

By [Karl Plume](#) and [David Alire Garcia](#)

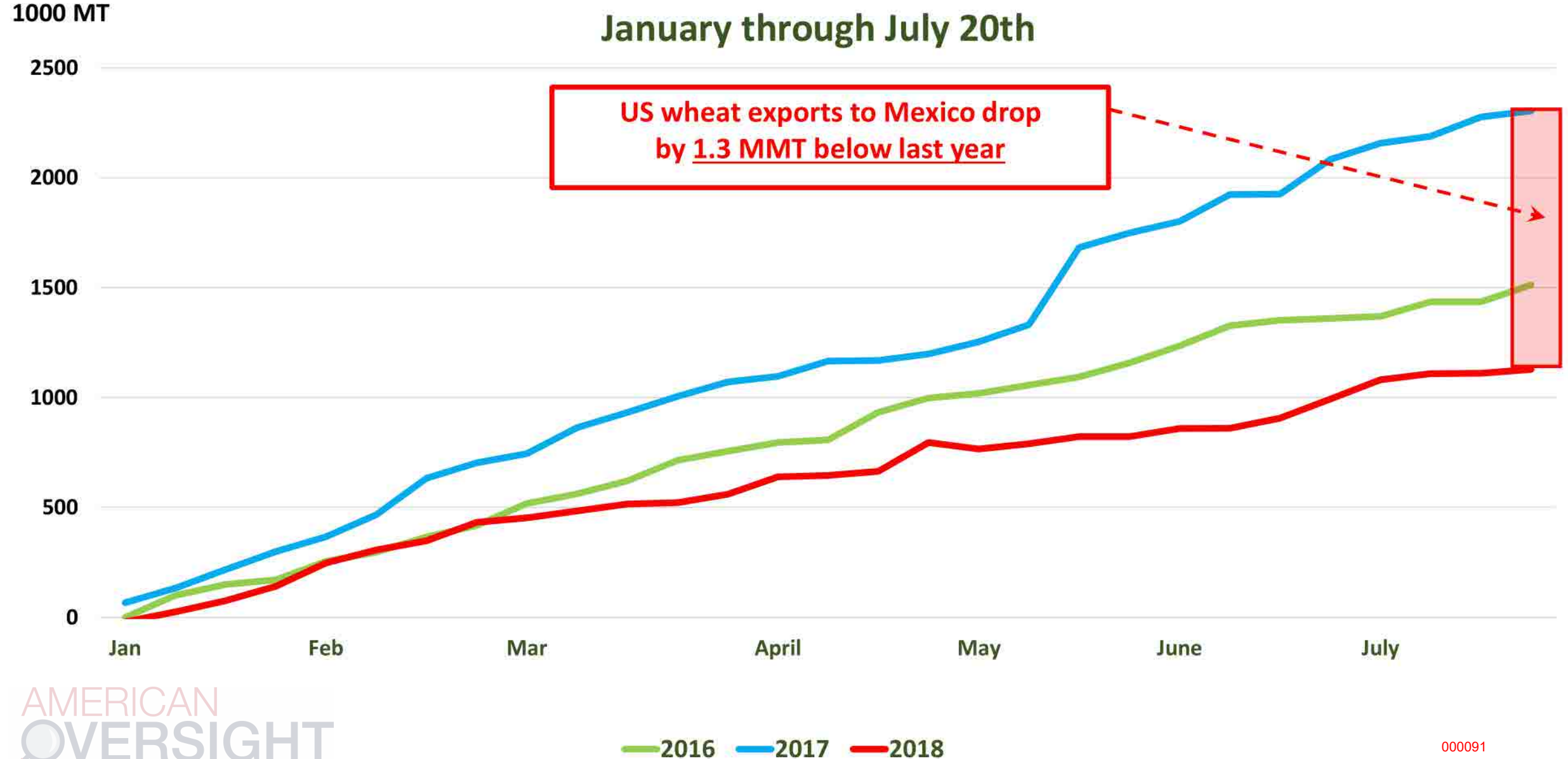
CHICAGO/MEXICO CITY July 26 (Reuters) - Mexico, the top importer of U.S. wheat, is increasingly turning to cheaper supplies from Russia.

The shifting supply deals are alarming for the U.S. industry, which has supplied the vast majority of Mexico's wheat since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) took effect.

"It's important to send signals to Mr. Trump," said Jose Luis Fuente, head of Canimolt, a Mexican trade group which represents 80 percent of Mexican millers.

Mexican Wheat Purchases from USA

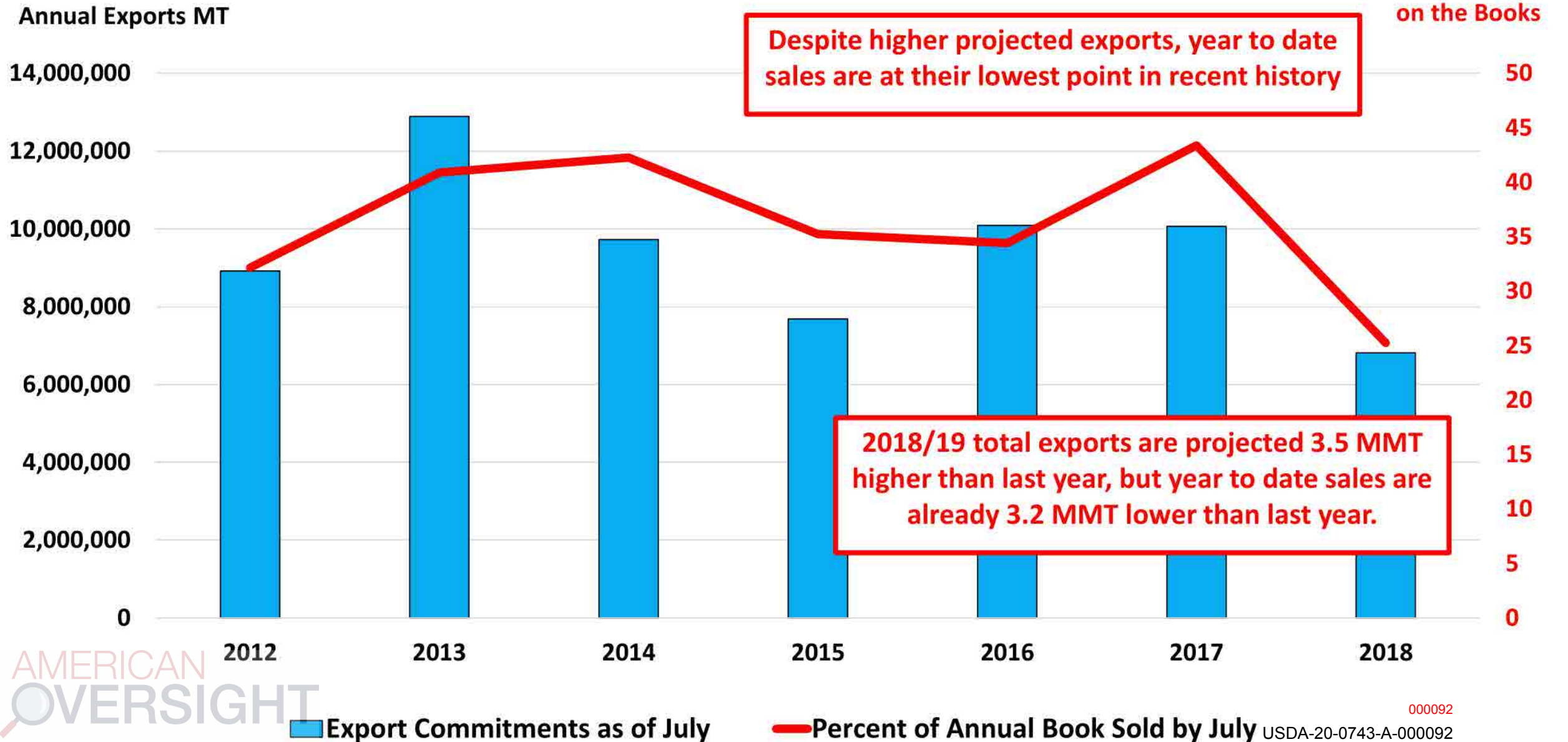
January through July 20th



US Wheat Exports

Total Sales Commitments by July

2020-OSEC-03256-F

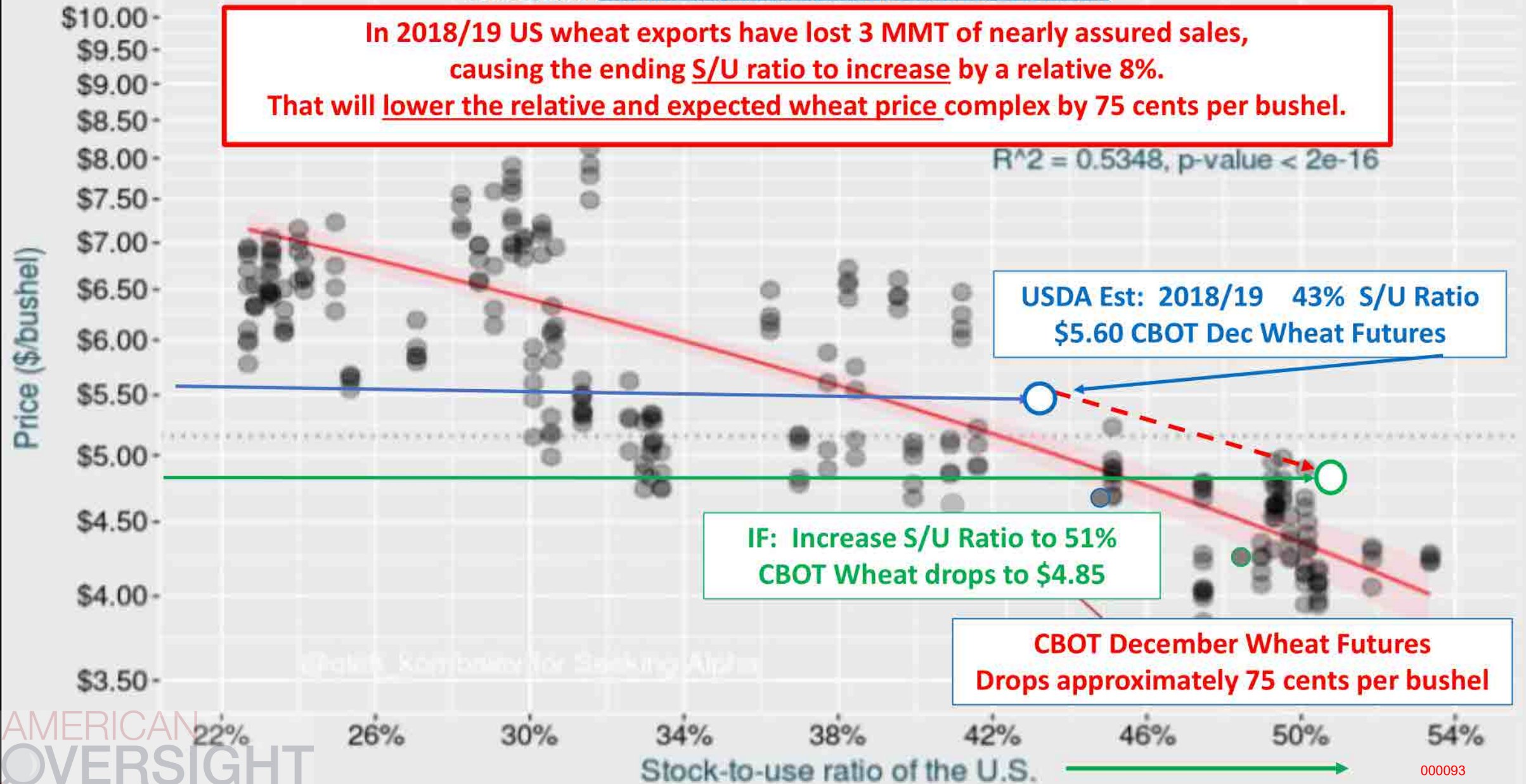


Estimated stock-to-use ratio of the U.S. wheat market vs. nearby CBOT wheat futures prices

2020-OSEC-03256-F

Source graph: <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4081953-forget-buy-grains>

In 2018/19 US wheat exports have lost 3 MMT of nearly assured sales, causing the ending S/U ratio to increase by a relative 8%. That will lower the relative and expected wheat price complex by 75 cents per bushel.



**CBOT December Wheat Futures
Drops approximately 75 cents per bushel**

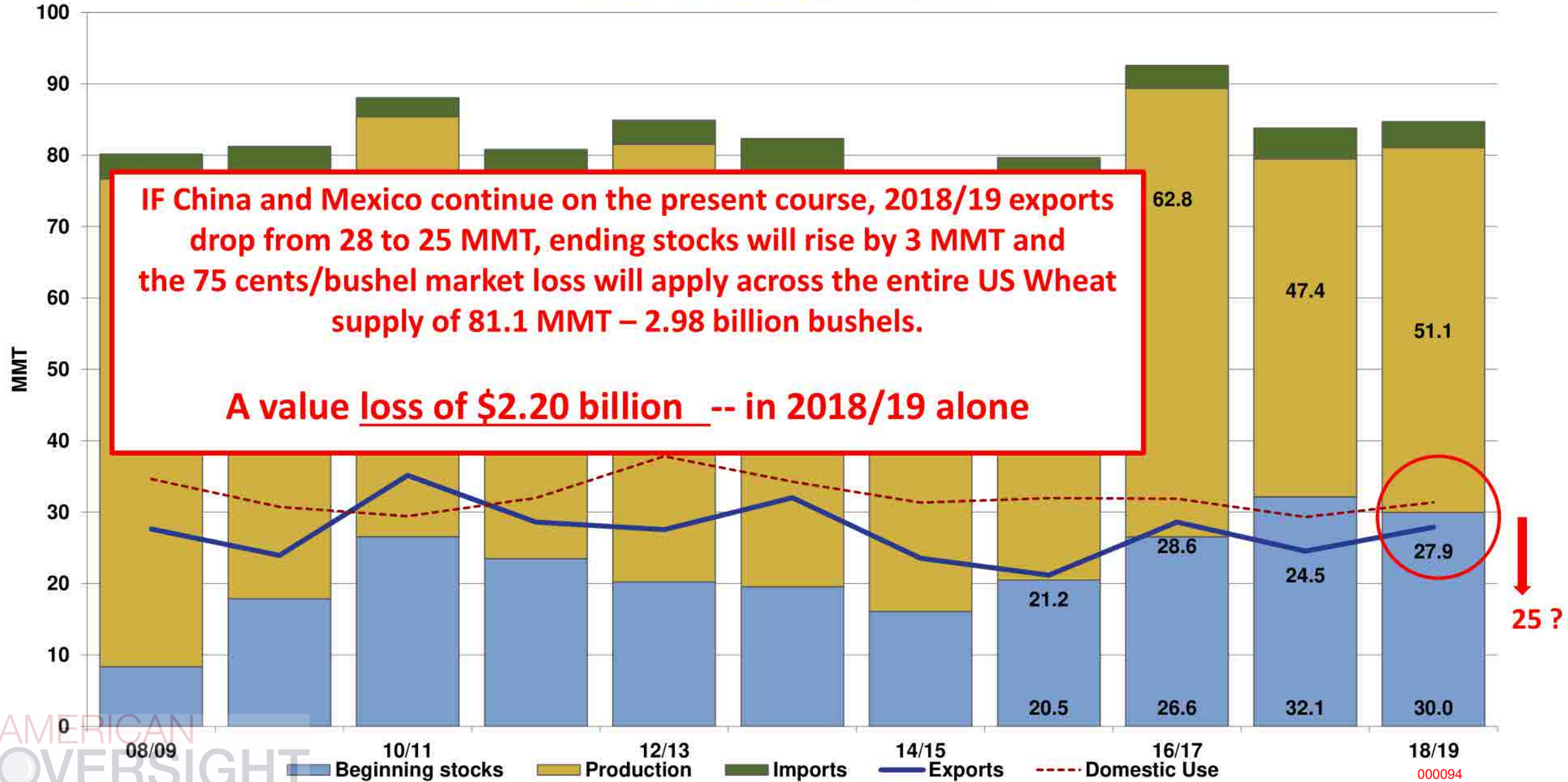
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OVERSIGHT

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USDA-20-0743-A-000093

U.S. Wheat Situation

2020-OSEC-03256-F



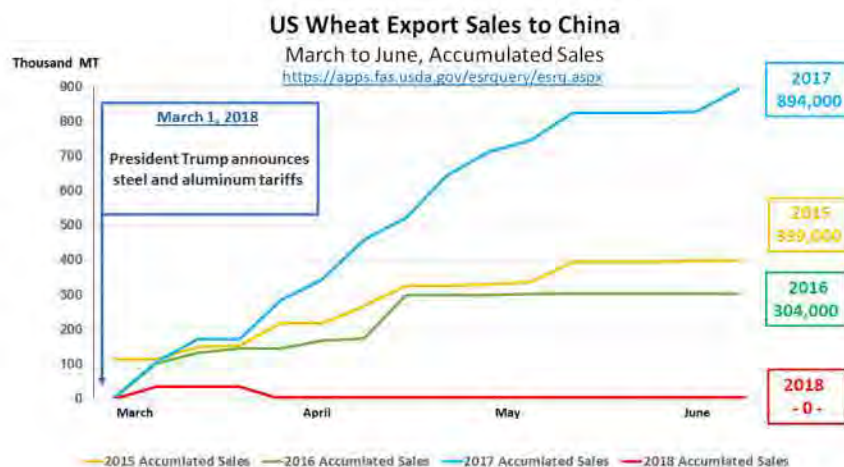


TARIFF IMPACTS ON US WHEAT EXPORTS

IN SHORT: There have been **zero U.S. wheat sales to China** since tariffs were first threatened in March. Sales to Mexico year to date are **lagging by 1.3 MMT** compared to 2017 sales. Higher Stock to Use ratio are estimated to have a **75 cent per bushel depreciation** – a loss of \$2.20 billion across the US wheat supply. Had our wheat exports not been limited by these political constraints, wheat prices would be much higher and we would have an ever greater post-harvest market rally potential.

CHINA

On March 1st, 2018 President Trump threatened to impose steel and aluminum tariffs on China. Since March 1st, zero sales have been made to China. By June 1st, cumulative wheat export sales to China from March to May had fallen 800,000 MT (almost 30 million bushels) behind the sales pace from the same period in 2017. Should this continue the US wheat producer stands to lose 1.3 MMT (48 million bushels) of sales compared to the 5-year average sales to China. In the marketing year 2017, we sold 1.7 MMT (62 million bushels).

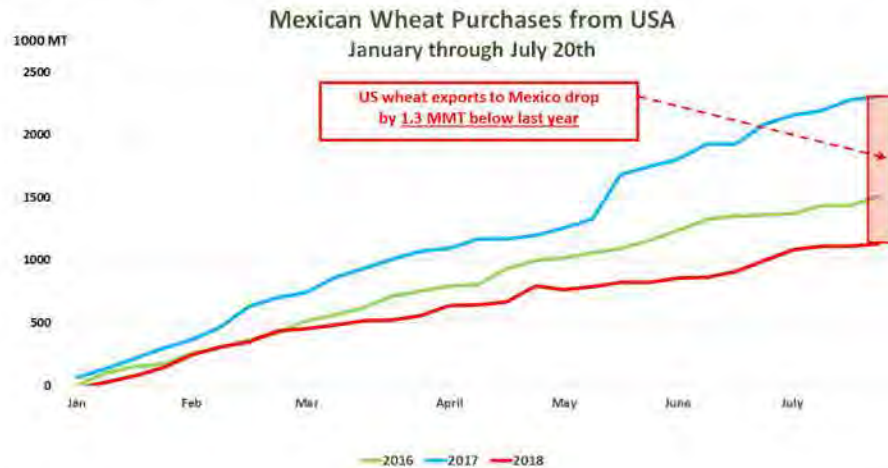


MEXICO

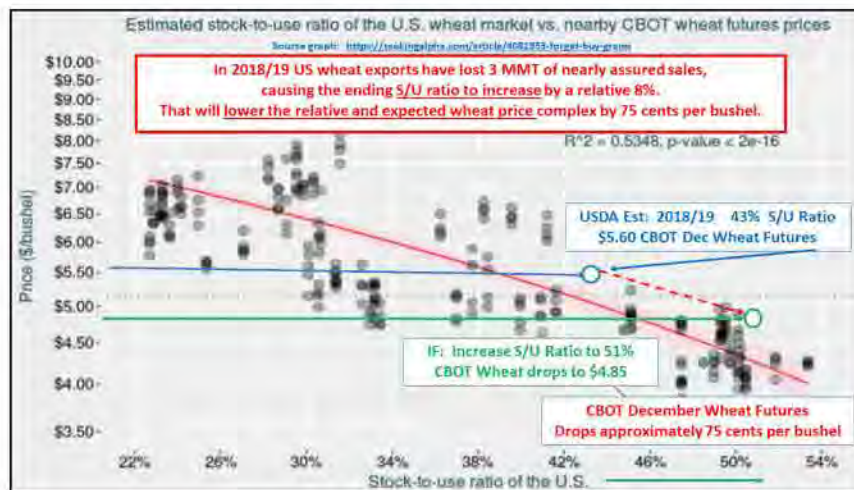
Mexican buyers have also reacted to uncertainty stemming from NAFTA renegotiation and tariffs threats by switching from the United States to other suppliers. By July, exports to Mexico in 2018 were 1.3 MMT (48 million bushels) behind the same period in 2017, a drop of over 50 percent in what was our largest market.

VALUE LOSS

With zero sales to China and a slow pace of sales to Mexico as compared to last year, we are already 3.2 MMT behind last year's export sales to date. With this start, it will be extremely difficult to make the new 28 MMT USDA wheat export projection. Rather, it appears that we will have lost and cannot recover this initial 3 MMT of sales that we have missed. Regardless of the final export and carryout numbers, this will elevate our final ending stocks by 3 MMT and our Stocks to Use ratio up from 43% to 51%. Based on historical price behavior, an 8% increase in stocks-to-use ratio implies a 75 cent per bushel reduction in value for wheat.



If we continue on the present course, a 75 cents per bushel depreciation across the entire US wheat supply of 81.1 MMT (2.98 billion bushels) is a value loss of \$2.20 billion in 2018/19.



BOTTOM LINE

There have been **zero U.S. wheat sales to China** since tariffs were first threatened in March.

Sales to Mexico year to date are **lagging by 1.3 MMT** compared to 2017 sales.

Higher Stock to Use ratio are estimated to **have a 75 cent per bushel price depreciation** impact – causing – a loss of \$2.20 billion across the US wheat supply.

Had our wheat exports not been limited by these political constraints, wheat prices would be much higher and we would have an ever greater post-harvest market rally potential.

From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC
Sent: 19 Aug 2019 21:16:39 +0000
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: White Paper
Attachments: DRAFT_Trade damage methodology_08192019_12pm pb.docx

Rob/Sharon – Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (10 pp.)

[REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative
 [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative I'm
 fine if you think it helps the case and you want to reincorporate that.

The other thing I noticed was [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative
 (b)(5) - Deliberative Was this purposeful? If so, no worries, just wanted to flag.

Thanks for waiting on me!

Peter

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Subject: White Paper

Hi Michawn,
 We are planning to finalize (b)(5) Deliberative Process
 We are still waiting on [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Just [REDACTED]
 Cheers,
 Rob



Robert Johansson, Ph.D.
 Chief Economist
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 112-A Jamie Whitten Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20250-3810

Office: (202) 720-4164
Robert.johansson@usda.gov



Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Chief Economist**

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

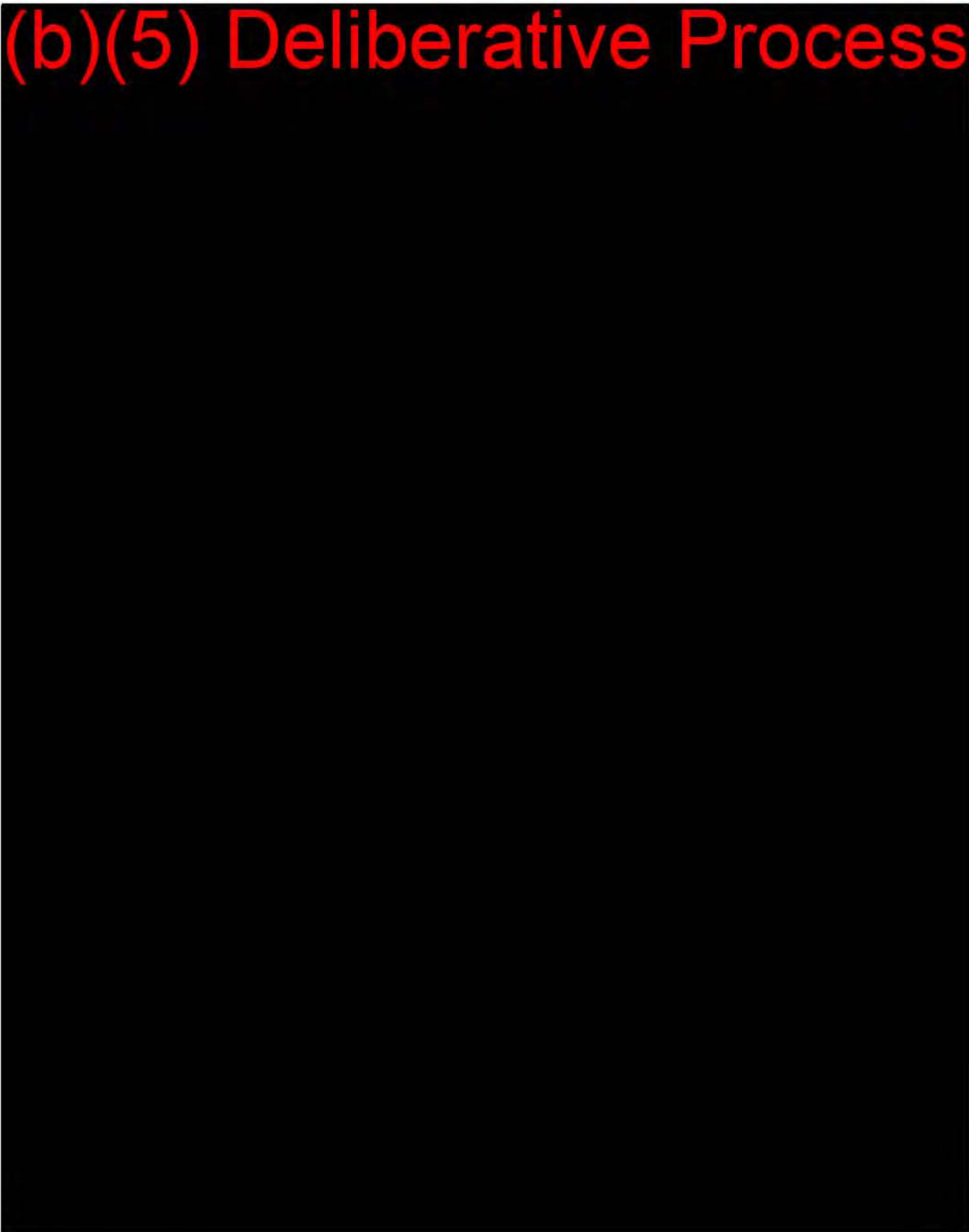
Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation
Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program

Executive Summary

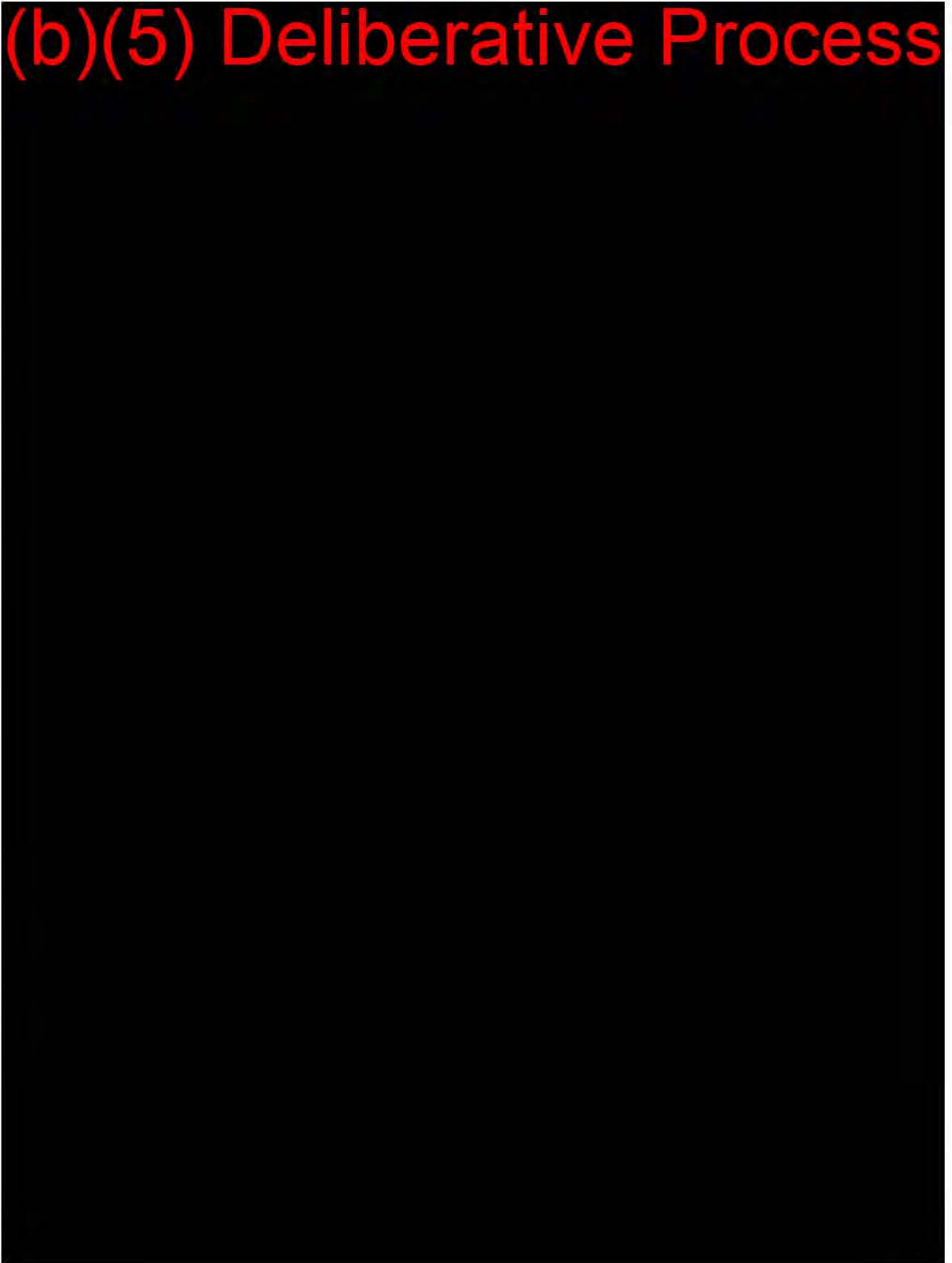
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



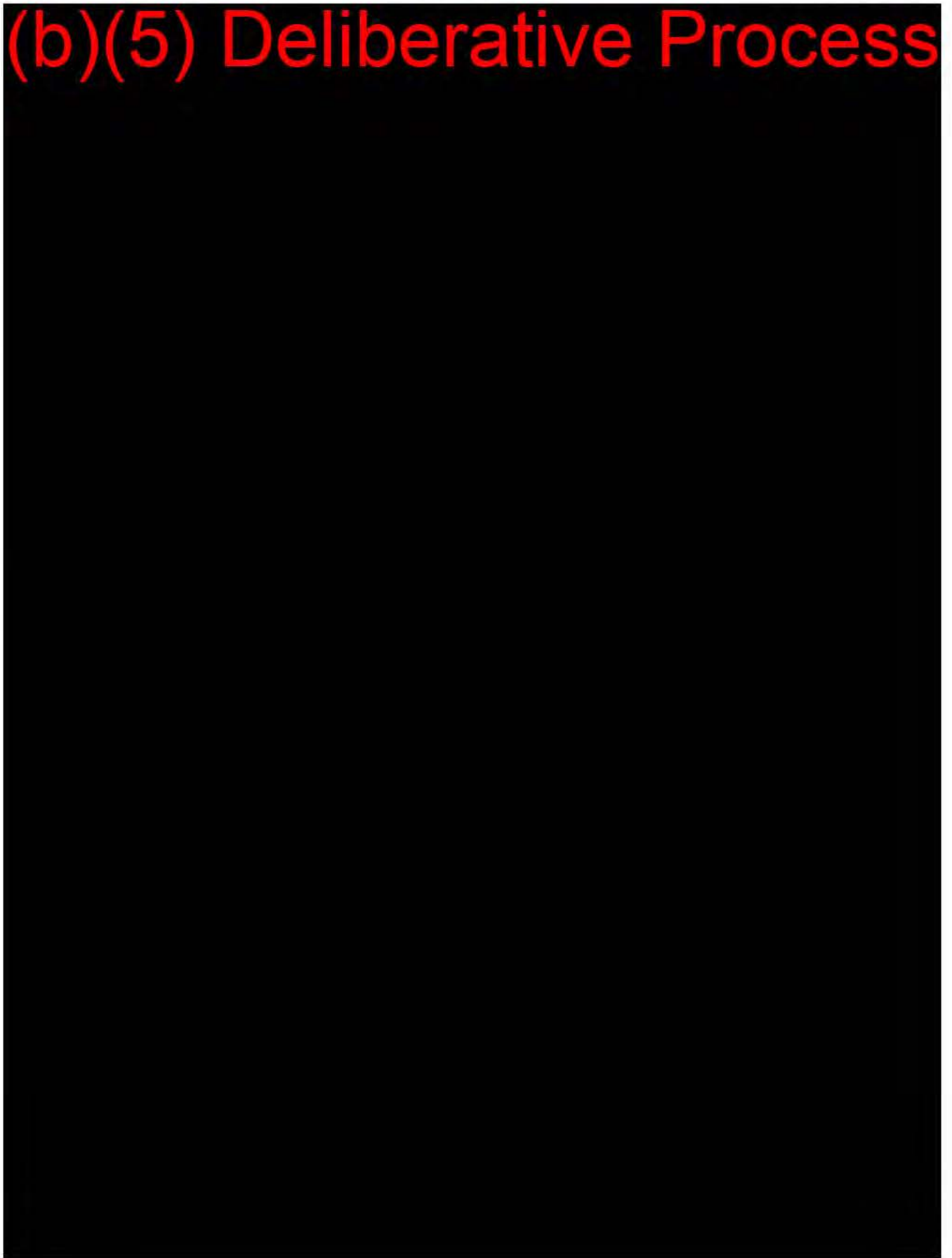
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



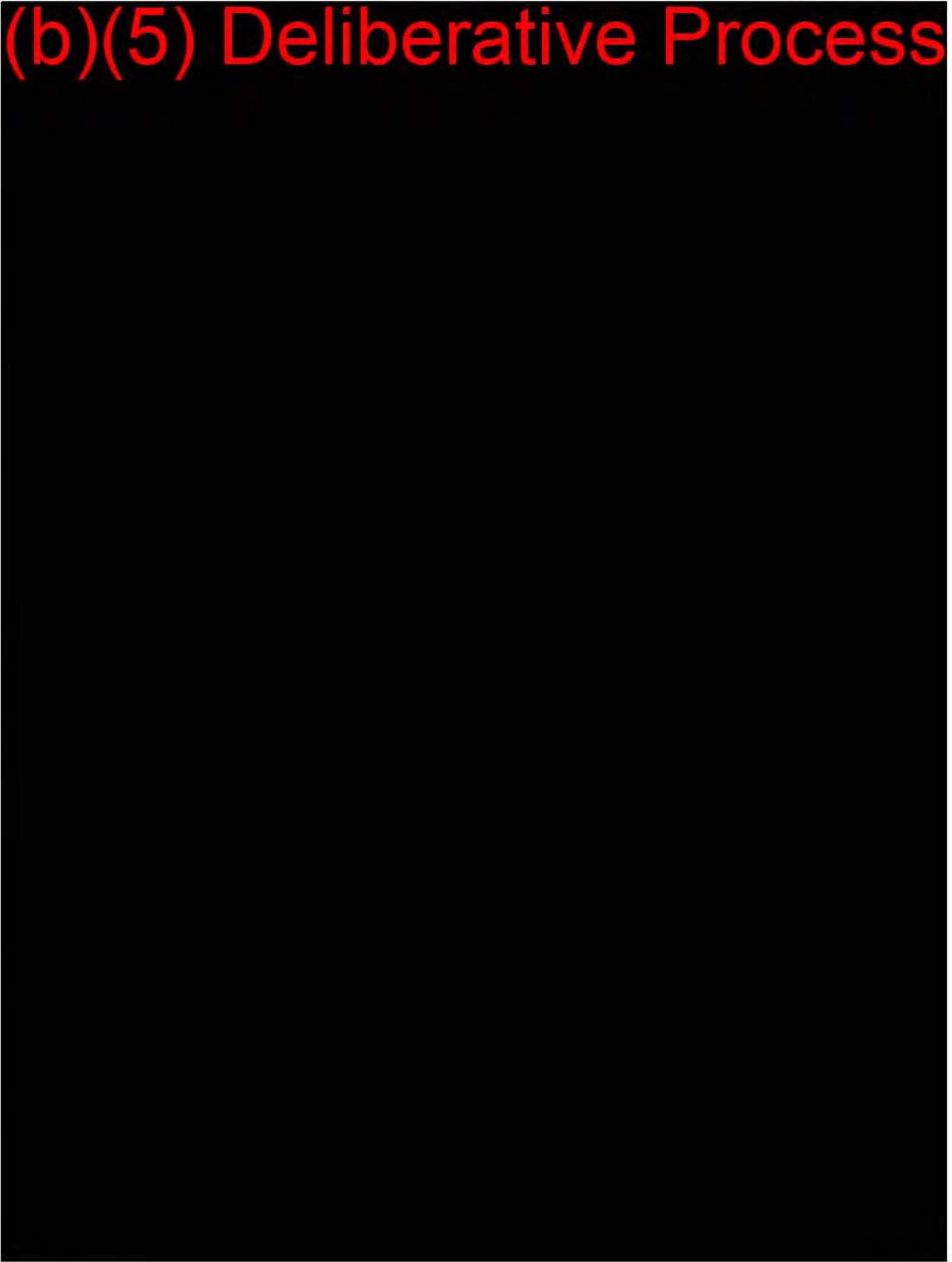
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



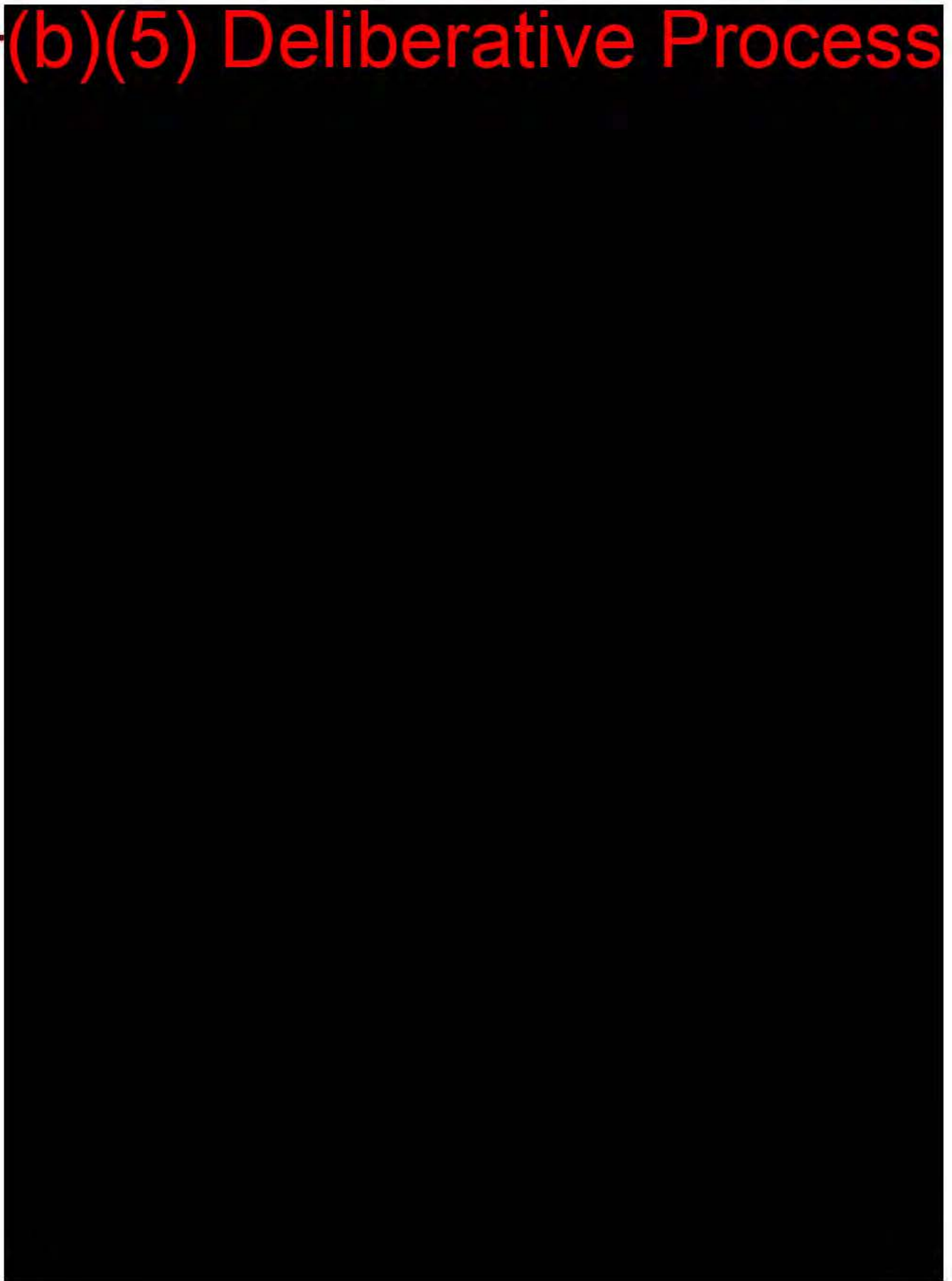
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



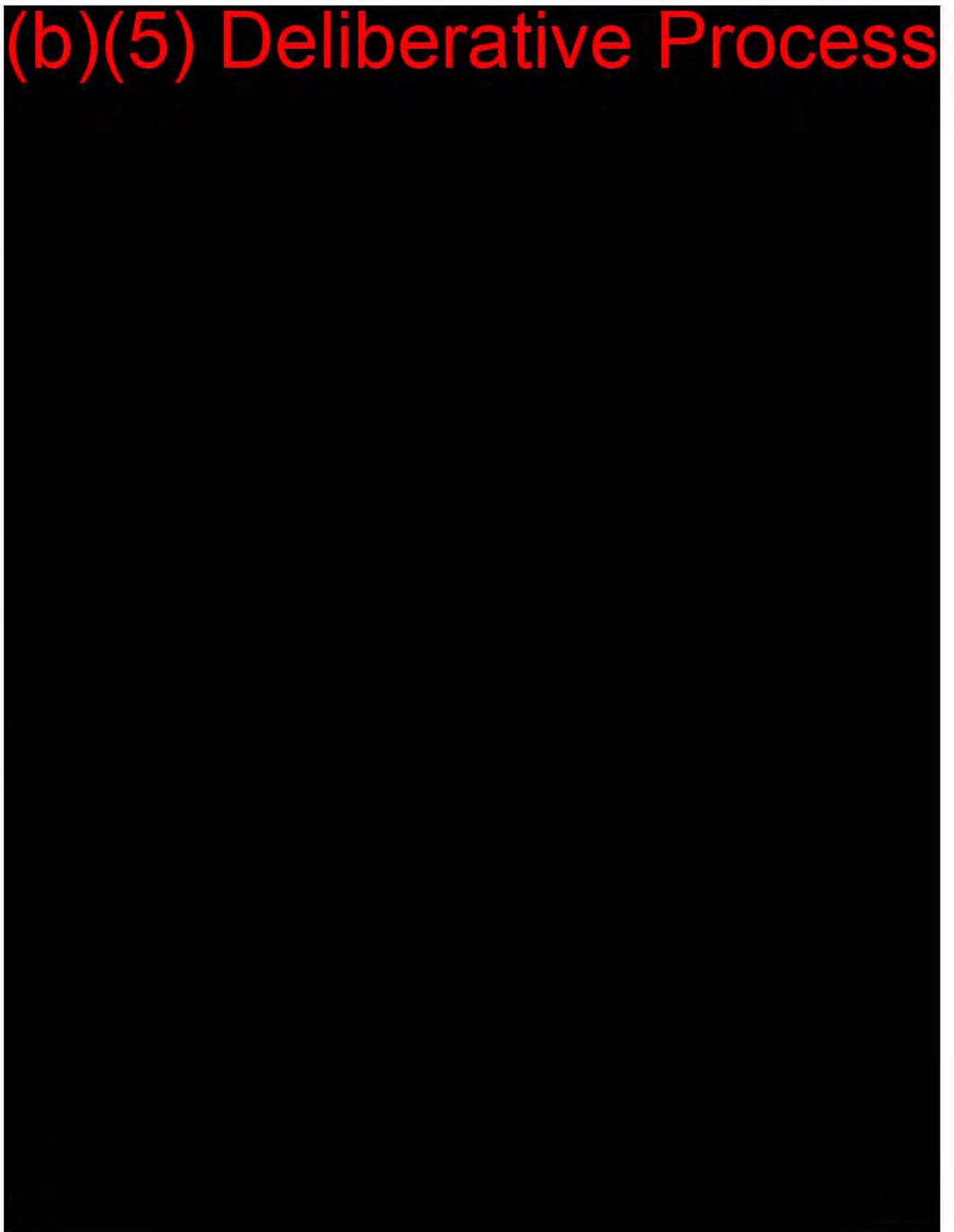
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



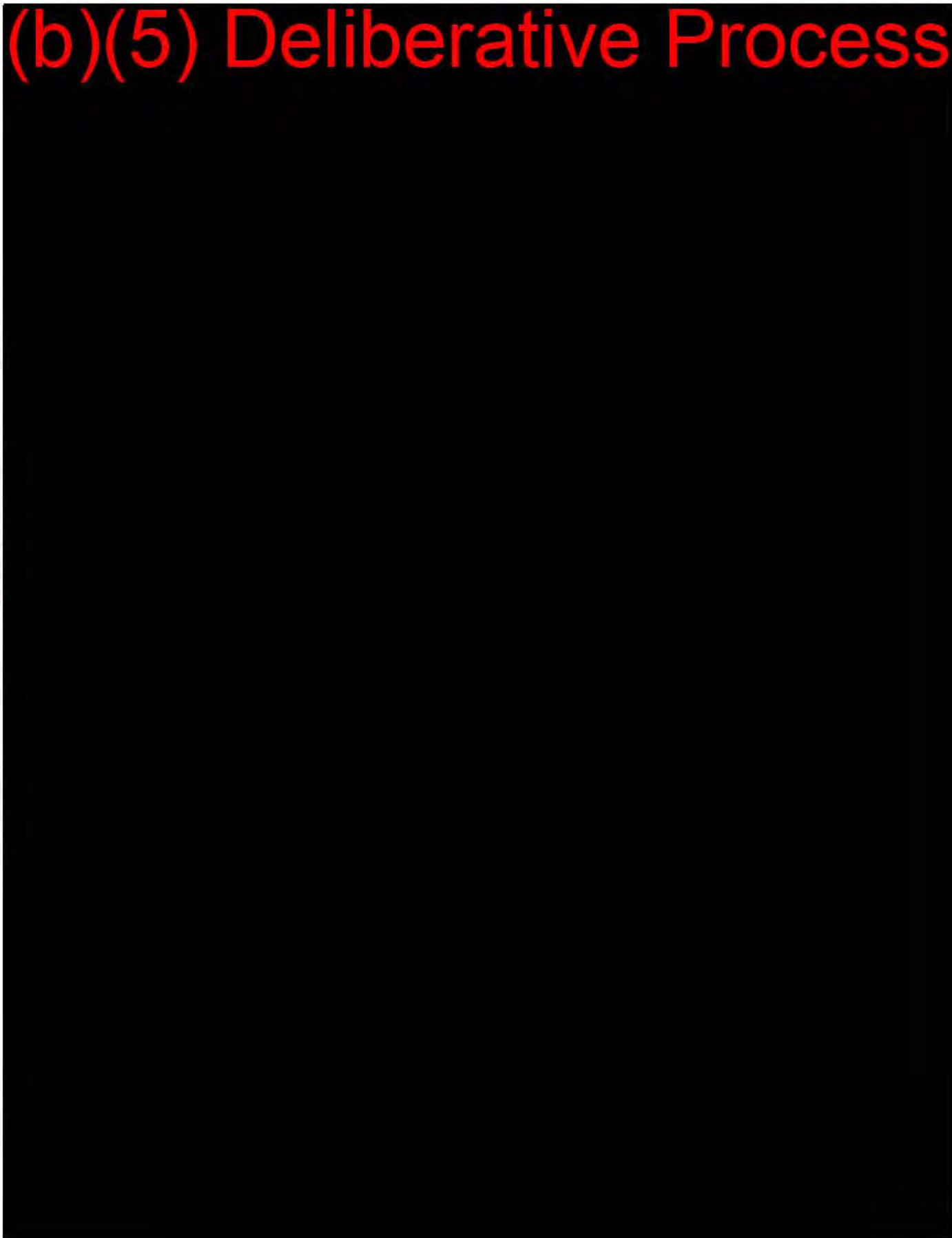
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Sent: 16 Aug 2019 13:06:46 +0000
To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: OCE white paper and cotton info
Attachments: DRAFT_(b)(5) - Deliberative, _08152019_720pm.docx

Peter/Jason: Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (14 pp.)

Rob did massive surgery on (b)(5) - Deliberative last night. (b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

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(b)(5) - Deliberative

This may be helpful in (b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

as well, and that analysis is not yet complete.

sss



Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Chief Economist**

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program

Executive Summary

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



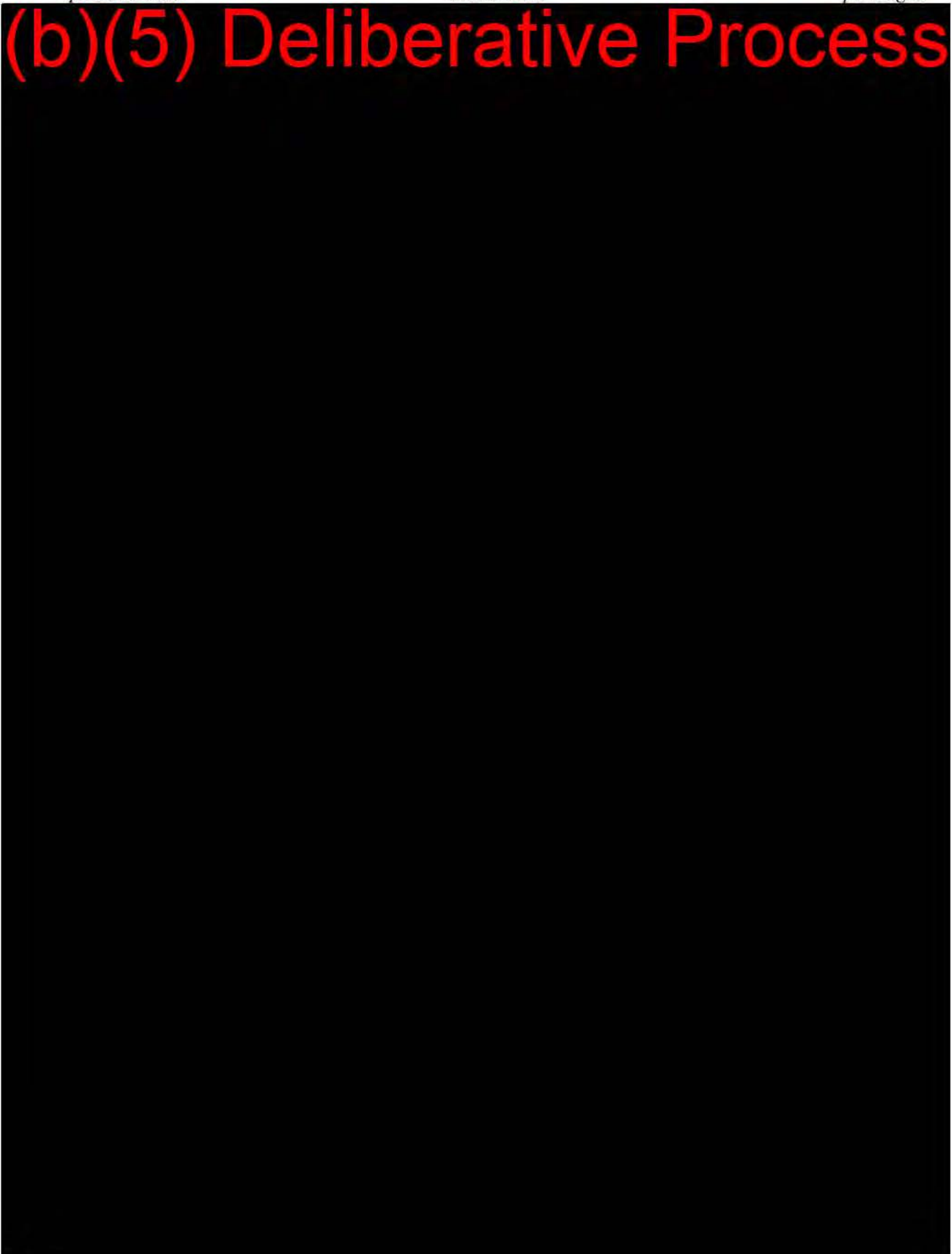
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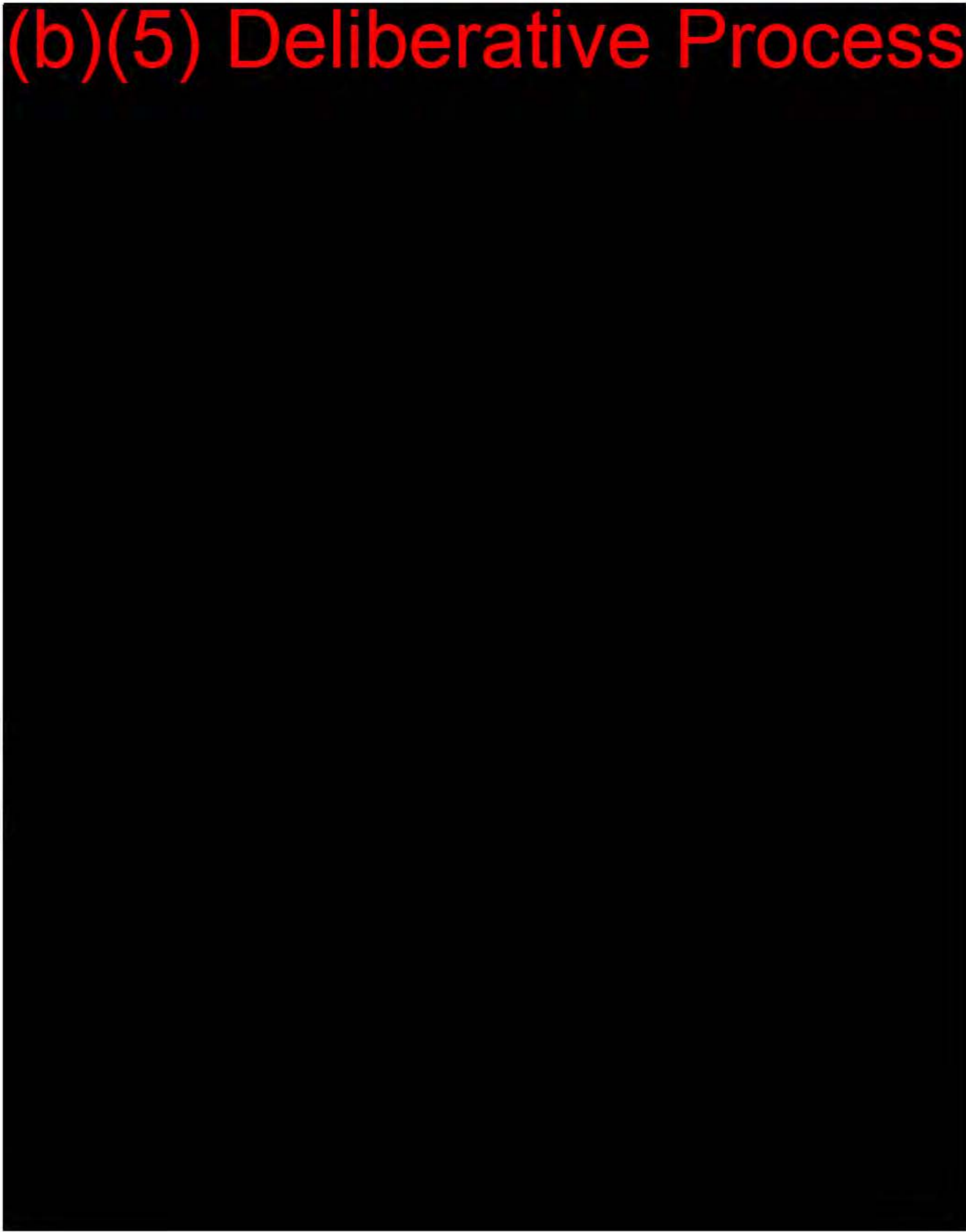
2020-OSEC-03256-F

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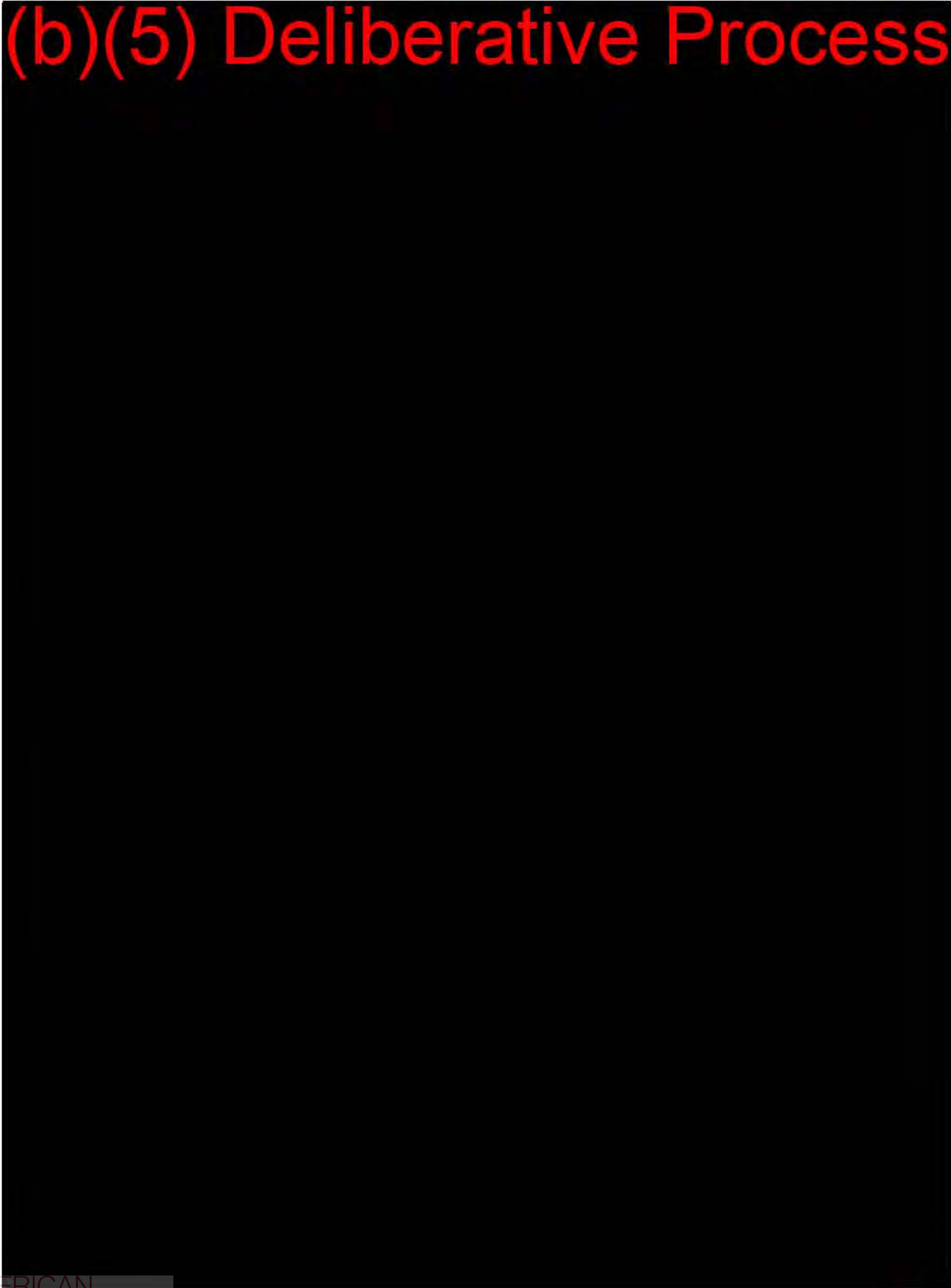
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(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



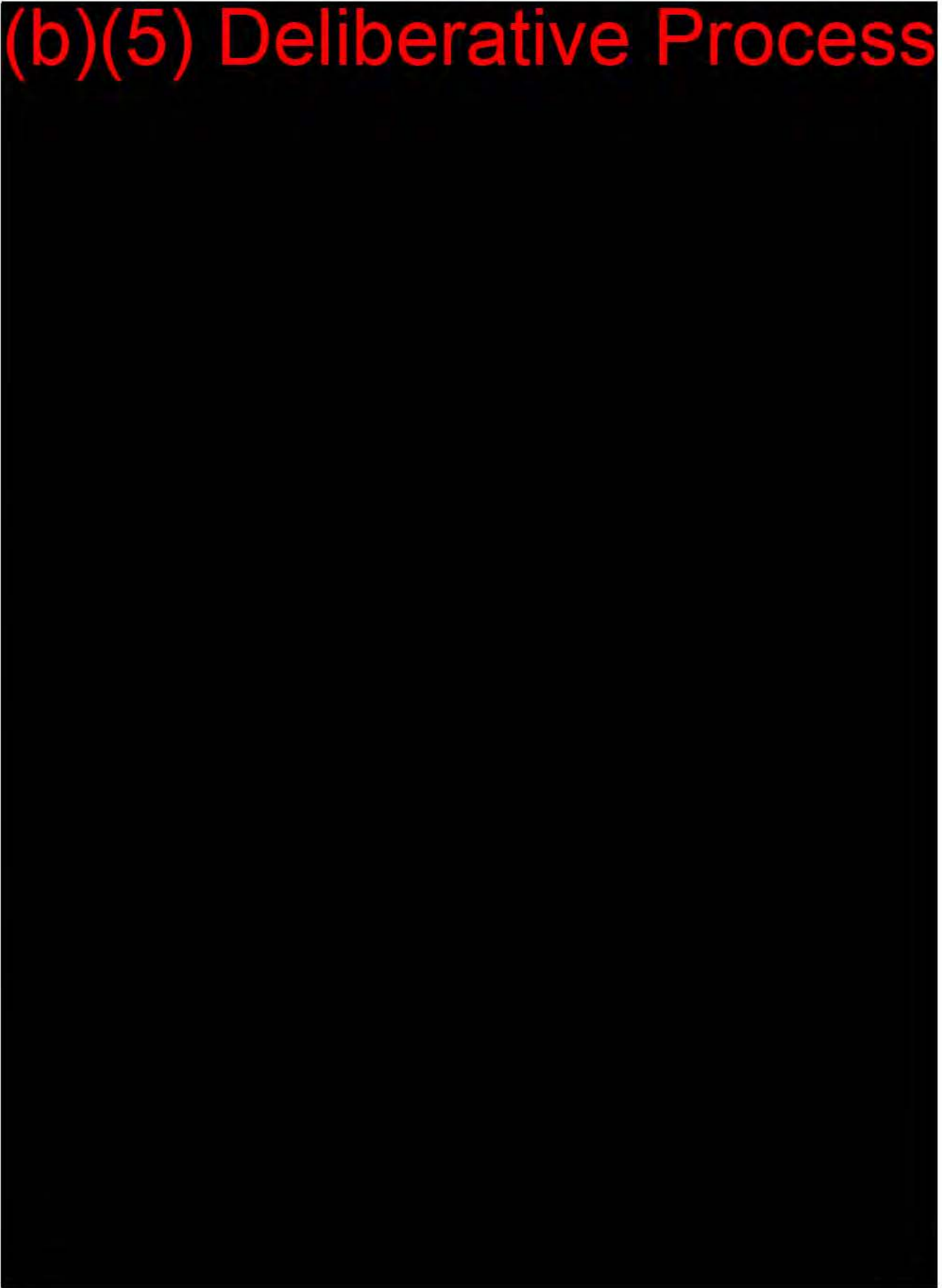
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2020-OSEC-03256-F

privileged

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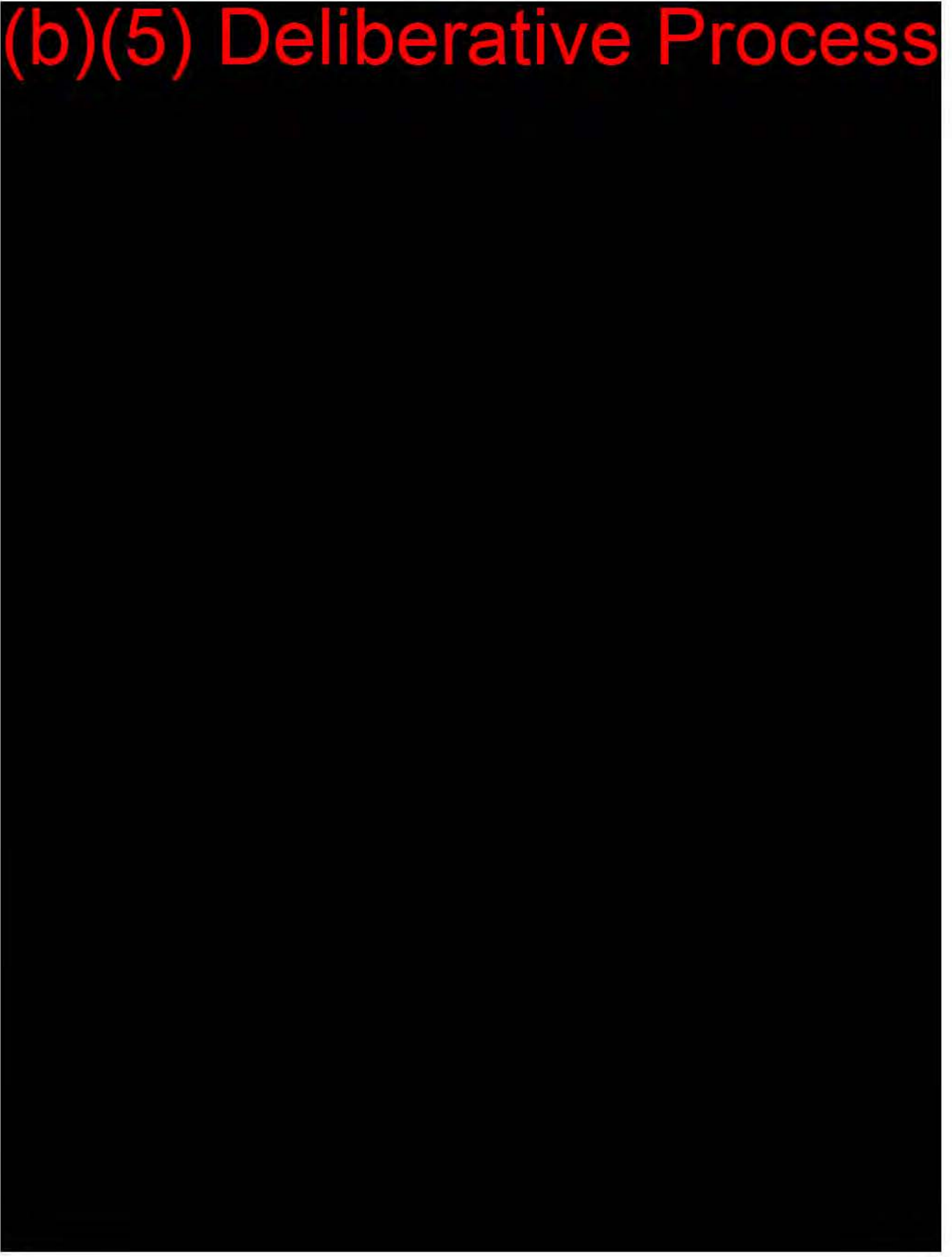


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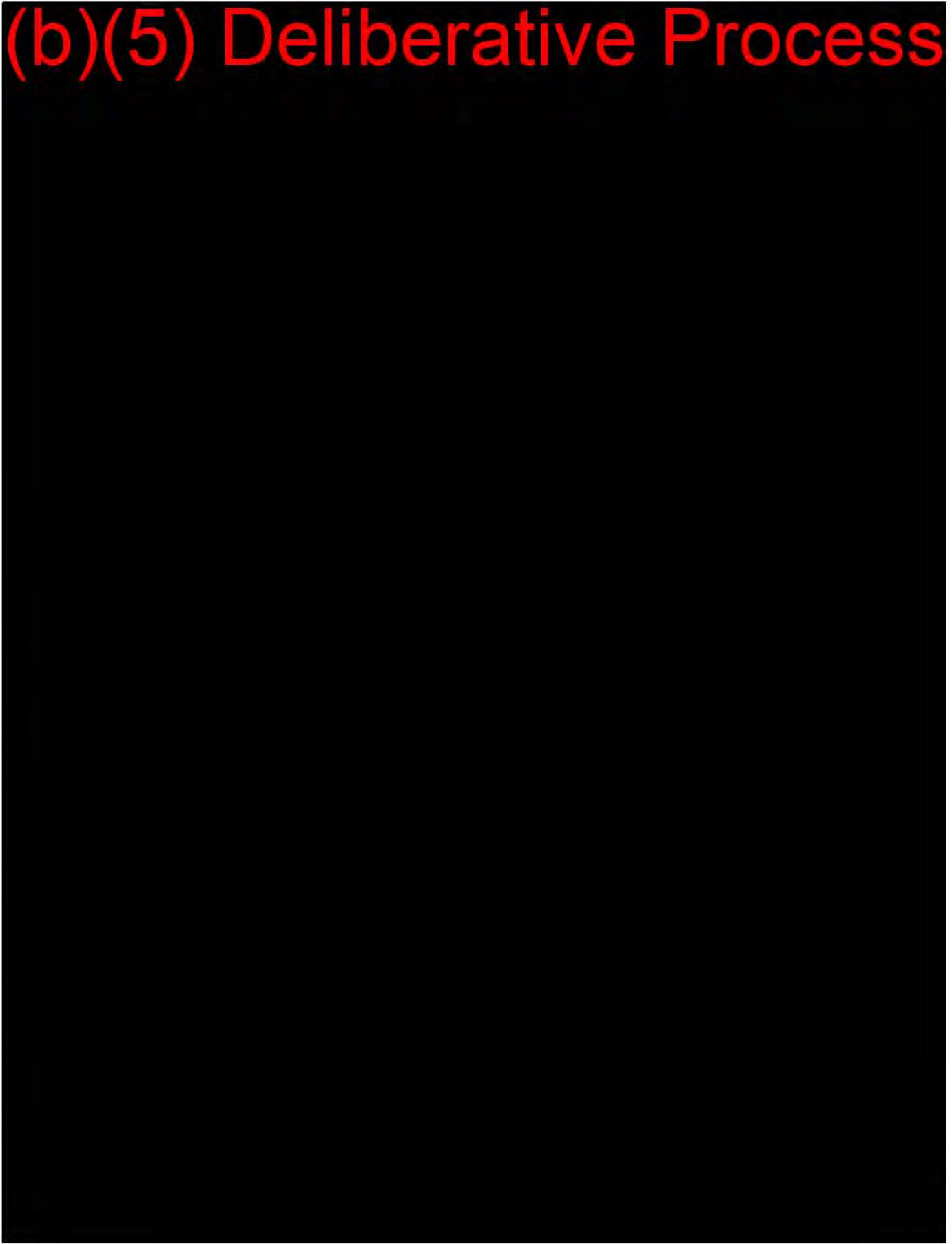
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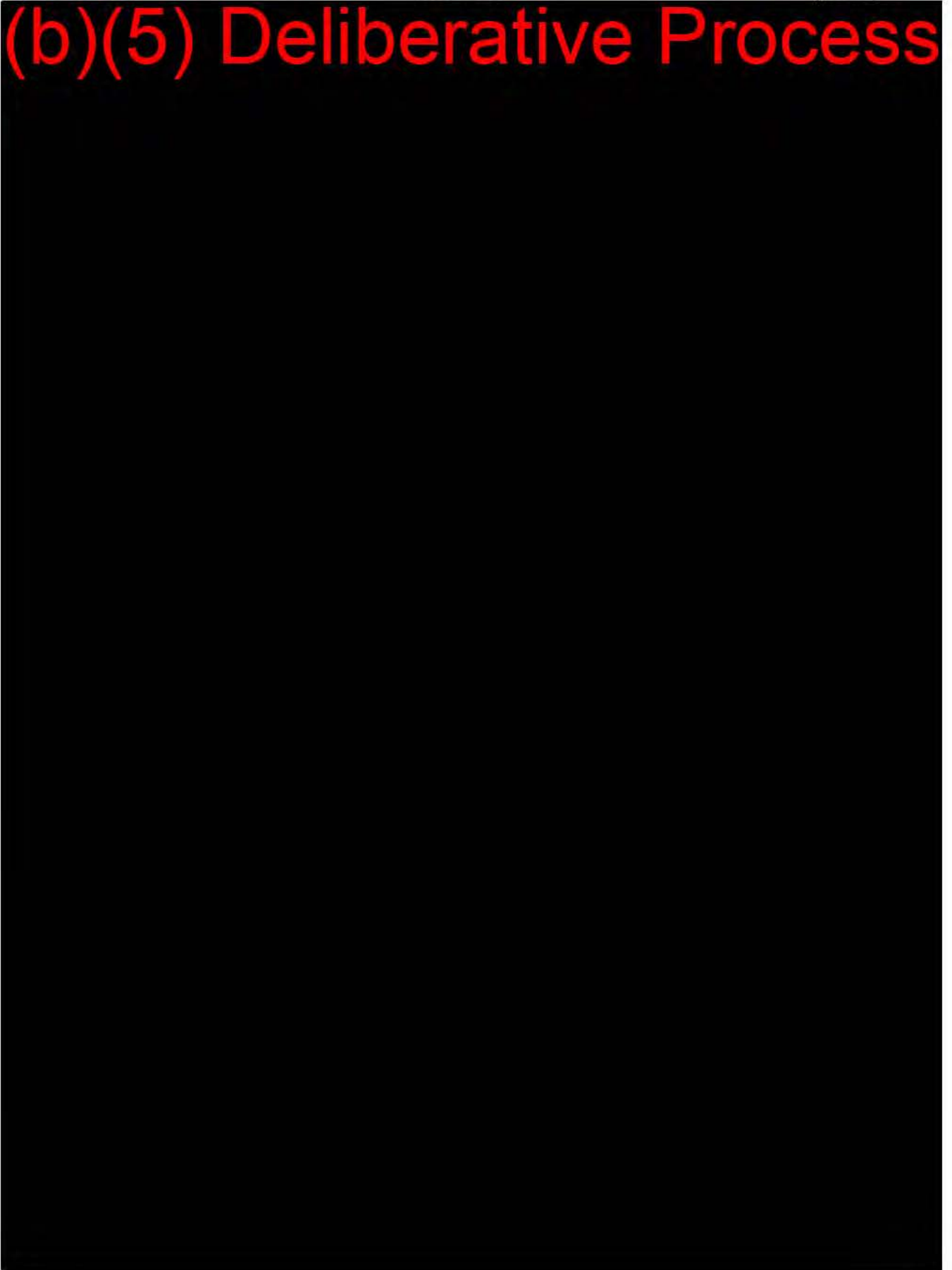
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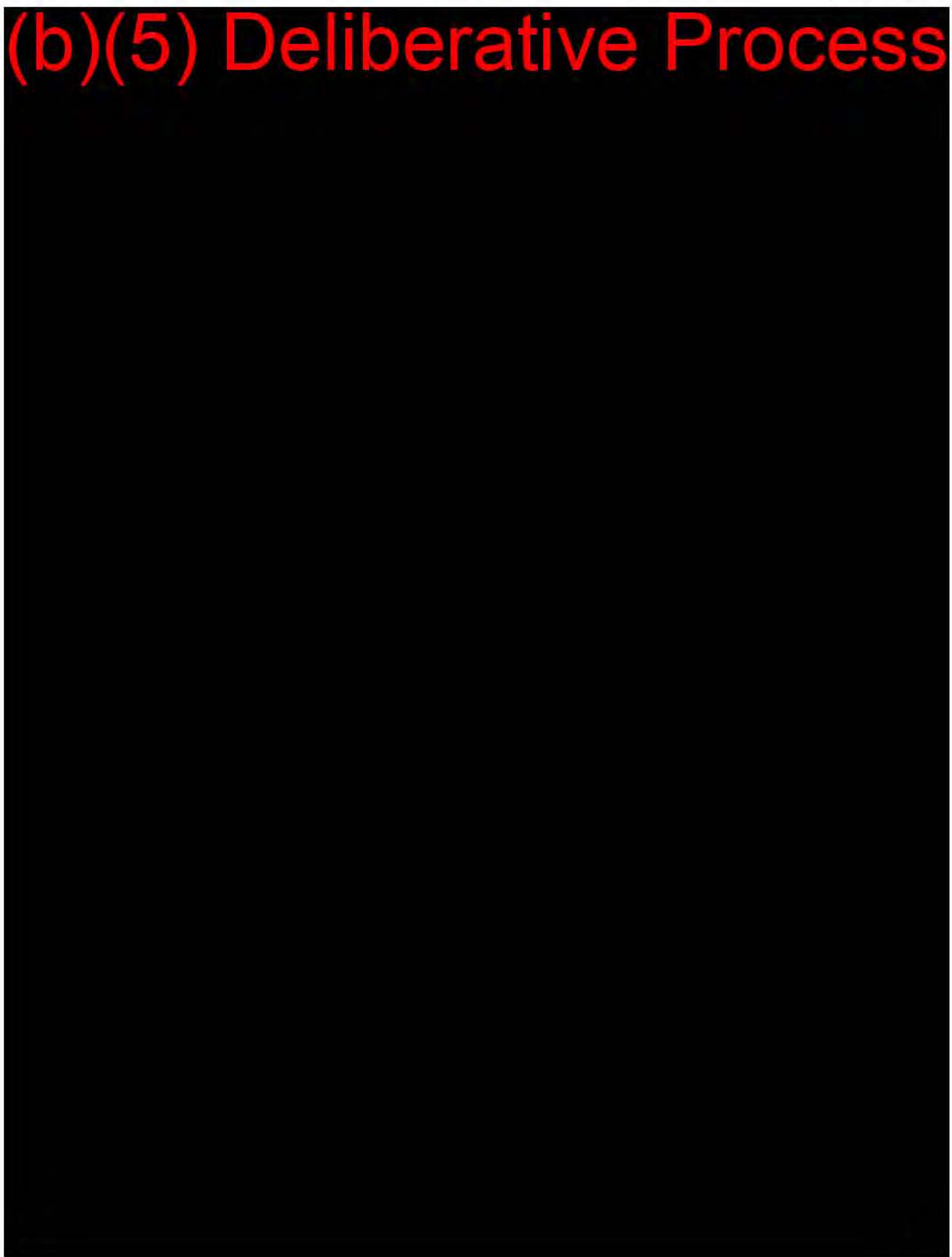
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privileged

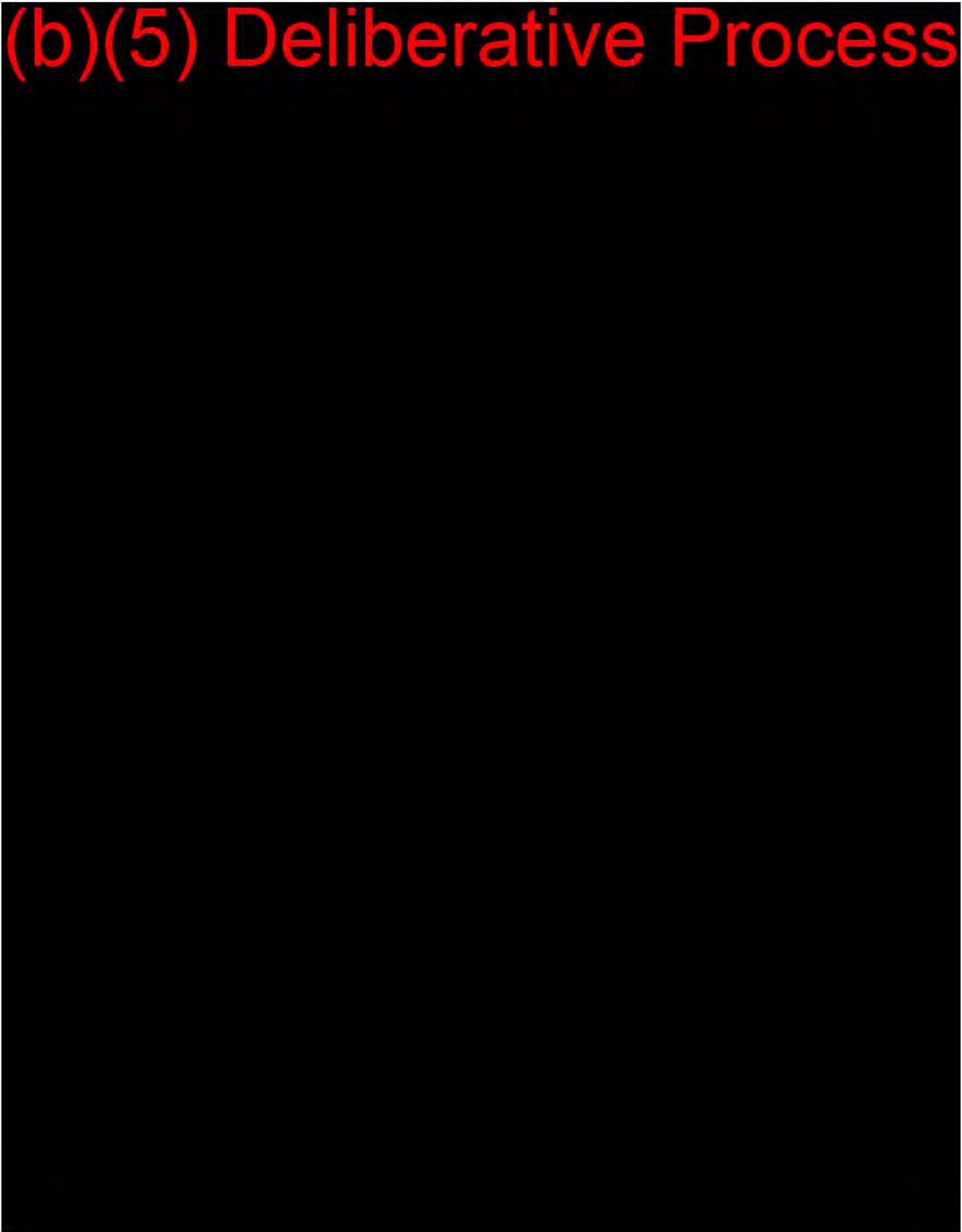
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



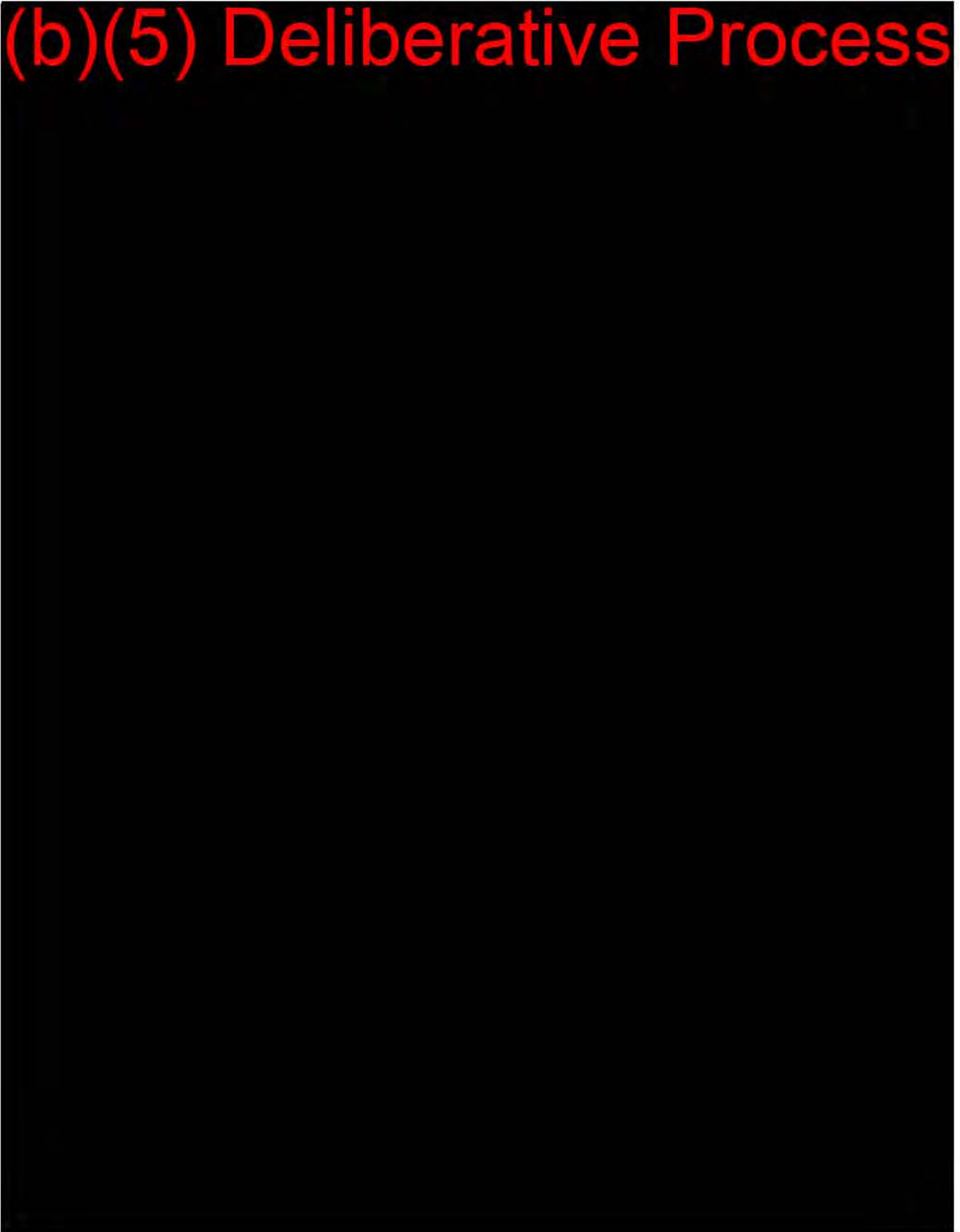
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(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



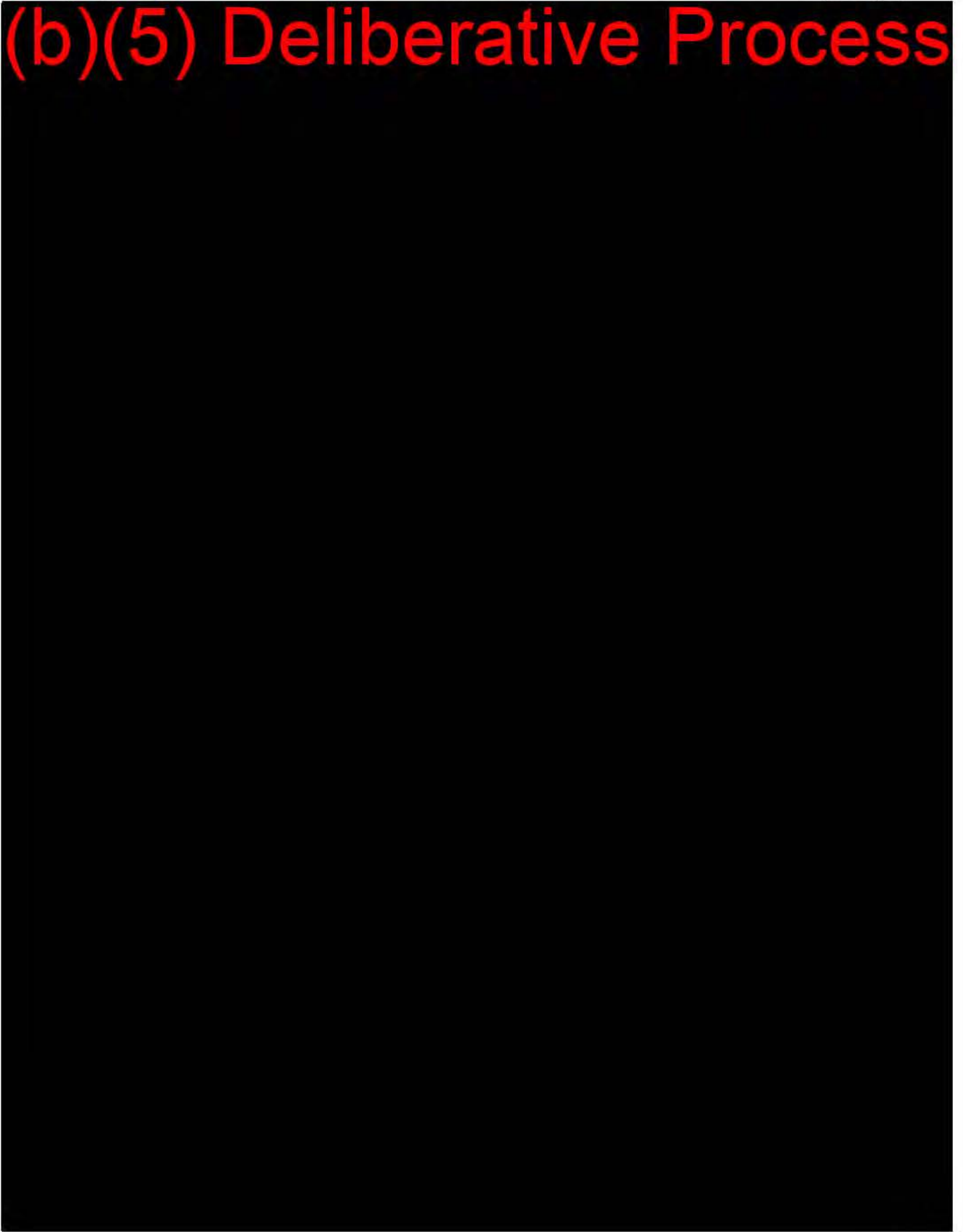
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(b)(5) Deliberative Process



predecisional

deliberative

2020-OSEC-03256-F
privileged

(b)(5) Deliberative Process



From: Johansson, Robert - OCE
Sent: 30 Jan 2019 02:26:30 +0000
To: Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Cc: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

They share pieces from time to time.

Robert Johansson, PhD
 Chief Economist USDA
 Whitten Bldg 112a
 Washington DC 20250-3810

(b) (6) & (b) (6)

From: "Sydow, Sharon - OCE" <SSydow@oce.usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 5:31:17 PM
To: "Johansson, Robert - OCE" <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

Hafemeister asks a good question.

(b)(5) - Deliberative?

(b)(5) - Deliberative?

From: "Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 5:26:28 PM
To: "Sydow, Sharon - OCE" <SSydow@oce.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

Thanks. I am sure this is great. Interested in the rest of the report also.

jh

From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:26 PM
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

From: "Nicholson, Erin H. EOP/USTR" <[\(b\)\(5\) - Deliberative@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:(b)(5) - Deliberative@ustr.eop.gov)>
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 3:20:42 PM
To: "Sydow, Sharon - OCE" <SSydow@oce.usda.gov>
Cc: "Effland, Anne - OCE" <aeffland@oce.usda.gov>, "Cook, Daniel - FAS"

<Daniel.Cook@fas.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

Hi Sharon,

Thank you. I will pass on your edits to the drafter.

Thanks,
Erin

On Jan 29, 2019, at 2:59 PM, Sydow, Sharon - OCE <SSydow@oce.usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Erin:

I checked around and USDA was not the author of this write-up. Here's an edited version; if you need redline/strikeout let me know. The tweaks are minor.

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

From: Nicholson, Erin H. EOP/USTR <(b) (6)@ustr.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 1:18 PM

To: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <SSydow@oce.usda.gov>; Effland, Anne - OCE <aeffland@oce.usda.gov>; Cook, Daniel - FAS <Daniel.Cook@fas.usda.gov>

Subject: Ag Trade Mitigation Language for President Report

Importance: High

Anne, Dan, and Sharon,

I just came across a draft report called "Economic Report of the President – Year in Review," which is new to me. It is apparently due by 3pm today.

There is a short section on USDA's trade mitigation programs, which I'm hoping came from you but I'm not sure. Could you please review and edit as needed? Please send back as soon as you can.

Mitigating Trade Retaliation for Agricultural Producers

At the direction of President Trump, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched programs in 2018 to assist American farmers negatively impacted in 2018 by retaliatory trade actions, including Section 232 and Section 301 actions. USDA made direct payments to affected farmers through the Market Facilitation Program, subject to payment limits and qualification criteria. Payments were available for producers of corn, cotton, dairy, fresh sweet cherries, hogs, shelled almonds, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat. Payments were based on production (except for hog farmers, who were compensated based on inventories) and how much the market for the particular commodity was estimated to be impacted by retaliatory tariffs. The total authorization for this program was [\$12 billion]. To date, \$xx billion has been distributed. USDA also provided assistance to farmers in the form of direct purchases of pork and beef plus a variety of fruits, nuts, and vegetables that were negatively impacted by retaliatory tariffs. The Food Purchase and Distribution Program purchased and redistributed \$1.2 billion of agricultural products. In addition, USDA is providing \$200 million in trade promotion of agricultural products through the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program.

Thanks,
Erin

Erin Hubbard Nicholson
Director for Agricultural Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
(202) 395 - 9419

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From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Sent: 30 Jul 2018 17:15:36 +0000
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: CRS

Thanks - [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative
 (b)(5) - Deliberative So it was good I could give her the right answer.

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <SSydow@oce.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CRS

From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 9:51 AM
To: Efland, Anne - OCE <aeffland@oce.usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CRS

From: Fischer, Bart [REDACTED] (b) (6) <[\[REDACTED\]@mail.house.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@mail.house.gov)>
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2018 5:57 PM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: CRS

FYI...

Potential WTO Implications of USDA's Proposed Response to Trade-Retaliation

July 27, 2018 (IN10940)

Related Author

[Randy Schnepf](#)

Randy Schnepf, Specialist in Agricultural Policy (rschnepf@crs.loc.gov, 7-4277)

On July 24, 2018, [Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced](#) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would be taking several actions to assist farmers in response to trade damage from what the Administration has characterized as "unjustified retaliation." Specifically, the Secretary said that USDA would authorize up to \$12 billion in programs under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act (See CRS Report R44606, [The Commodity Credit Corporation: In Brief](#)) to help agricultural producers meet the costs of disrupted markets. (See CRS Insight IN10880, [China's Retaliatory Tariffs on Selected U.S. Agricultural Products](#).)

Due to its price tag (\$12 billion) and the uncertainty over how payments will be implemented, there is considerable interest from policymakers and market watchers about whether these payments will be fully compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments. This Insight briefly discusses the WTO commitments that are relevant to U.S. domestic support programs and how the newly announced U.S. trade retaliation assistance program may or may not comply with those WTO commitments.

USDA's Proposed Trade Retaliation Assistance: What Is Known?

According to USDA [Chief Economist Rob Johansson](#), the trade retaliation assistance is a one-time program that serves as a short-term bridge until the Administration resolves the ongoing trade disputes. The assistance program is to consist of three parts, including direct payments to agricultural producers, government purchase of excess food supplies, and trade promotion activities.

- **1. Market facilitation program.** Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency, this program is expected to provide direct payments to producers of soybeans, sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton, dairy, and hogs.
- **2. Food purchase and distribution program.** Administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, this program is expected to purchase unexpected surpluses of affected commodities such as fruits, nuts, rice, legumes, beef, pork, and milk from U.S. producers for redistribution to federal nutrition assistance programs. (See CRS Report RL34081, [Farm and Food Support Under USDA's Section 32 Program](#).)
- **3. Trade promotion program.** Administered by the Foreign Agriculture Service in conjunction with the private sector, this program is expected to assist in developing new export markets for affected U.S. farm products. For examples, see the [Market Access Program](#) or the [Emerging Markets Program](#).

The USDA is relying on mechanisms authorized under the CCC Charter Act. The CCC is a government-owned bank used to support or stabilize farm incomes and prices, so it does

not require approval from Congress to undertake these initiatives. However, the specifics of the plan are to be subject to a federal rulemaking process.

[According to Secretary Perdue](#), the aid program would begin on September 4, and further details (such as how producers can apply) will come out in mid- to late-August. Such details are likely to include how farmers can prove harm and how much monetary compensation each farmer will get. The specific manner of determining how payments are made to individual producers will determine the WTO status of the programs.

WTO Disciplines of Domestic Support

As a member of the WTO, the United States has committed to abide by WTO rules and disciplines, including those that govern domestic farm policy. (See CRS In Focus IF10192, [WTO Disciplines of Domestic Support for Agriculture](#).) A farm support program can violate WTO commitments in two principal ways: first, by exceeding spending limits on certain market-distorting programs and, second, by generating distortions that spill over into the international marketplace and cause significant adverse effects. The WTO's Agreement on Agriculture spells out the rules for countries to determine whether their policies for any given year are potentially trade-distorting, how to calculate the costs of any distortion, and how to report those costs to the WTO in a public and transparent manner.

The principal WTO classifications for domestic support include the following:

- **Green box** programs are minimally or non-trade distorting and **are not** subject to any spending limits.
- **Amber box** programs are the most market-distorting programs and **are** subject to strict aggregate annual spending limits. The U.S. annual spending limit is \$19.1 billion.
- **De minimis exemptions** are spending that is sufficiently small (less than 5% of the value of production)—relative to either the value of a specific product or total production—to be deemed benign and thus excluded from any spending limit.

In addition, certain types of export and import subsidies and non-tariff trade barriers that are not explicitly included in a country's WTO schedule or identified and accepted in the WTO legal texts are prohibited.

WTO Compliance of Trade Retaliation Assistance Payments

USDA outlays under food purchase and distribution programs have historically been notified to the WTO as green box compliant and thus not subject to any spending limit. Trade promotion programs are not notified under domestic support because they do not involve direct payments to producers.

Notification of payments under the market facilitation program will depend on how the payments are made. If payments are coupled to a farm's current production (i.e., by this year's harvest), as [USDA officials suggest](#), then they would have to be notified as product-specific amber box outlays subject to the \$19.1 billion amber box ceiling. Since 2007, U.S. amber box outlays have averaged \$5.2 billion under mandatory farm support programs. Thus, it would appear that there is substantial room under the \$19.1 billion ceiling for the addition of the trade-loss offset payments.

If payments are made to historical base acres rather than to actual current-year production, then they could be notified as non-product-specific payments. Non-product-specific

payments can be excluded from the amber box ceiling under the *de minimis* exemption if they are less than 5% of the total value of U.S. agricultural production (approximately \$400 billion) or approximately \$20 billion.

By either approach, the trade retaliation assistance payments would appear to fit within U.S. commitments to the WTO. However, even when compliant with payment limits, any domestic support payments are open to challenge under WTO dispute settlement rules if another country can prove that they cause injury.

From: Ahsan, Saquib - FAS,
Sent: 4 Sep 2019 19:25:45 +0000
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal
Attachments: jh slide 9-3.pptx

JH,

Apologies, I just got access to my e-mail. Please see the attached slide on government payments. Please let me know if you need anything else.
 I will also look into the Brookings article you just sent.

Thanks!
 Saquib

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Ahsan, Saquib - FAS, <Saquib.Ahsan@fas.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

When you have a minute, could you figure out how to put this on a ppt slide?

Thanks

jh

From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/charts/90786/governmentpaymentsareaaug2019.png?v=7504.4>

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 12:06 PM
To: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

Thanks, [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative (b)(5) - Deliberative
 (b)(5) - Deliberative?

jh

From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 11:45 AM

To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

They are estimating \$10.7 billion in MFP (2018 and 2019 programs) to be paid in 2019 – half of the 2019 amount (\$7.25 b.) plus about \$3.5 billion that presumably was paid in 2019 from the 2018 program.

They also include conservation in this number.

Here's the full summary

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances/farm-sector-income-forecast/>

Federal Government direct farm program payments, 2010-2019F
Nominal (current dollars)

United States	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019F
	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Federal Government direct farm program payments	12,381,869	10,420,530	10,635,118	11,003,796	9,766,945	10,804,486	12,978,676	11,531,611	13,669,010	19,474,223
Fixed direct payments	4,009,267	4,705,893	4,687,021	4,268,531	18,733	-3,509	-5,348	818	-935	NA
Cotton Transition Assistance Payments (CTAP)	NA	NA	NA	NA	459,927	24,018	1,054	122	-43	NA
Cotton Ginning Cost-Share (CGCS) Program	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	328,456	254	214,562	NA
Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)	321,387	15,978	41,395	206,868	255,094	13,738	122	250	63	NA
Price Loss Coverage (PLC)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	754,928	1,942,170	3,213,842	2,064,025	2,103,000
Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,376,892	6,051,410	3,787,083	1,100,009	179,000
Counter-cyclical payments	209,099	18,510	-1,234	-639	-527	-80	-189	-59	NA	NA
Loan deficiency payments	114,391	5,749	616	-331	61,894	164,844	186,830	8,459	-515	225,000
Marketing loan gains	2,002	80	0	0	32,935	53,528	49,158	3,440	0	275,000
Certificate exchange gains	705	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Milk income loss payments	51,660	-100	446,572	231,704	-129	-40	-64	-43	-20	NA
Dairy Margin Coverage Program	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	398	19,384	19	250,013	800,000
Tobacco Transition Payment Program	688,769	686,928	653,033	647,674	646,359	2,574	0	6	0	NA
Conservation	3,219,457	3,674,324	3,695,063	3,676,690	3,561,366	3,618,026	3,763,963	3,824,171	3,889,519	3,859,220
Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)	231,390	29,796	12,266	7,078	5,444	7,364	6,879	1,236	236	NA
Supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance	2,647,915	1,304,552	1,102,397	1,942,908	4,725,718	1,800,619	657,343	879,465	915,566	1,712,670
Miscellaneous programs	-2,395	1,928	-680	-21	-49	-24	5,259	3,129	5,129,858	10,732,333

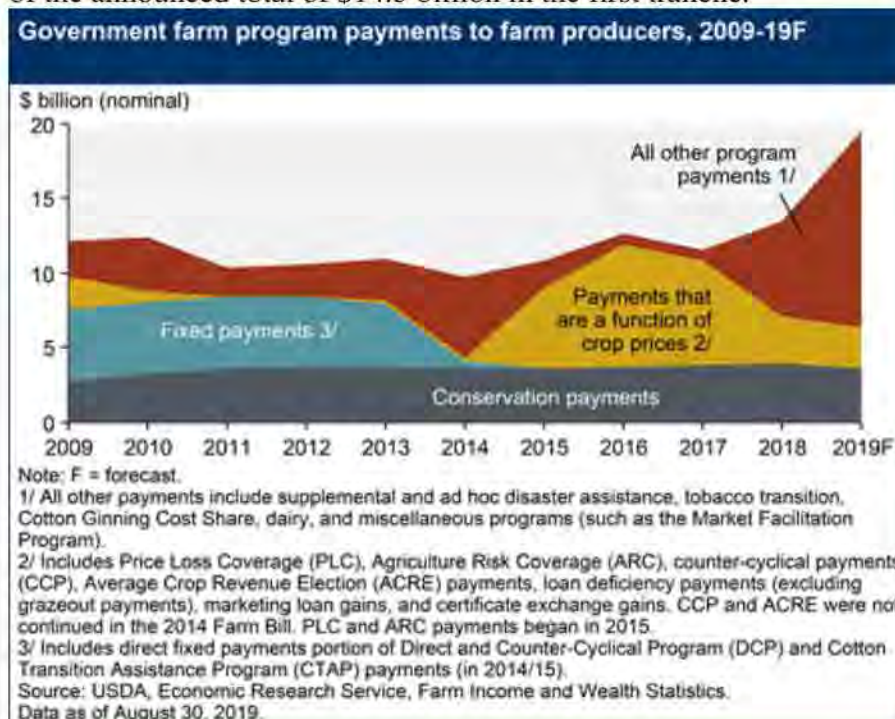
Direct Government Farm Payments Forecast To Increase in 2019

Direct government farm program payments are those made "directly" by the Federal Government to farmers and ranchers without any intermediaries. Government payment amounts do not include FCIC insurance indemnity payments (listed as a separate component of farm income) or USDA loans (listed as a liability in the balance sheet). Direct government farm program payments are forecast to increase 42.5 percent (\$5.8 billion) from 2018 to 2019 (see [table on government payments](#)). Nearly all of the increase reflects anticipated higher payments from the Market Facilitation Program, which is included under miscellaneous programs. Increases are also expected for supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance, loan deficiency payments, marketing loan gains, and the new Dairy Margin Coverage program introduced with the 2018 Farm Act.

- Payments in 2019 under the **Price Loss Coverage (PLC)** program are expected to increase modestly due to higher payments for feed grains and rice, and the addition of seed cotton to the program, as authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act of

2018. *Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)* payments are expected to decline because of a large drop in payments for wheat. Payments are also expected to increase for the *marketing loan gains* and the *loan deficiency* programs.

- **Conservation payments**—reflecting the financial assistance programs of USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service—are expected to fall to \$3.7 billion in 2019, down 8.4 percent from 2018.
- **The Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC)**, which replaced the *Dairy Margin Protection Program (Dairy MPP)* in the 2018 Farm Act, is forecast to make net payments of \$0.6 billion to dairy operators in 2019.
- **Supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance** payments in 2019 are forecast to increase \$0.8 billion (87.1 percent) from 2018. A large outlay is anticipated from a new program, the *Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP+)* enacted through the Disaster Relief Act of 2019.
- The large payments projected for the *miscellaneous programs* category reflect payments from the *Market Facilitation Program* to assist farmers in response to trade disruptions. The 2019 forecast includes payments from the program first implemented in 2018 but received by producers in calendar year 2019, plus the expected payments from the first tranche of the program announced in 2019. We assume producers will receive 50 percent of the announced total of \$14.5 billion in the first tranche.



From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 11:35 AM
To: Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

(b)(5) - Deliberative?

The Agriculture Department expects to spend \$19.5 billion in direct farm subsidies this year, driven by its trade aid program and disaster relief payments to producers. USDA also predicts ag exports to China will grow slightly next year — but they would still represent a fraction of normal sales to the massive market.

jh

From: POLITICO's Morning Agriculture <morningagriculture@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 10:05 AM
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>
Subject: Digging out of Trump's ethanol dilemma — Trade aid behind projected farm income bump — Ag cheers potential wins in Japan deal

SEP 04 2019

[View in browser](#)

BY RYAN MCCRIMMON

Editor's Note: This edition of Morning Agriculture is published weekdays at 10 a.m. POLITICO Pro Agriculture subscribers hold exclusive early access to the newsletter each morning at 6 a.m. Learn more about POLITICO Pro's comprehensive policy intelligence coverage, policy tools and services at www.politicopro.com.

QUICK FIX

— **President Donald Trump is trying to dig out of an ethanol policy quagmire**, as corn farmers are increasingly frustrated with the administration's moves to exempt oil refiners from blending requirements.

— **The Agriculture Department expects to spend \$19.5 billion in direct farm subsidies this year**, driven by its trade aid program and disaster relief payments to producers. USDA also predicts ag exports to China will grow slightly next year — but they would still represent a fraction of normal sales to the massive market.

— **Trump is aiming to sign a trade deal with Japan at the U.N. General Assembly this month** after announcing a tentative agreement last week. Tokyo is expected to buy up excess U.S. corn and open its lucrative ag market to more imports of American beef, pork, dairy and other products under the deal.

HAPPY TUESDAY, SEPT. 3! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host is happy to be back after a relaxing week in Switzerland, where we filled up on cheese and learned a lot about [Swiss cow culture](#). Send tips to rmccrimmon@politico.com and [@ryanmccrimmon](#), and follow us [@Morning Ag](#).

DRIVING THE DAY

DIGGING OUT OF TRUMP'S ETHANOL DILEMMA: After campaigning as a champion of ethanol, Trump is struggling to pacify corn growers and biofuel producers angered by his approval last month of 31 waivers the EPA granted to small oil refiners. But it's unclear if a compromise the White House is now considering will be enough to placate farmers, [Pro Energy's Eric Wolff reported last week](#).

Farm fallout: The action last month sparked a backlash from producers who say the exemptions undermine demand for ethanol, exacerbating economic challenges in agriculture including low crop prices and the trade war with China. The National Corn Growers Association on Friday said Trump's ethanol moves have cost 2,700 rural jobs and affected demand for 300 million bushels of corn due to lower ethanol production and plant closures.

"NCGA has no confidence in the volumes EPA proposes for 2020," Lynn Chrisp, the group's president, wrote in comments submitted to the EPA. "These refinery waivers have significantly outpaced annual increases in [Renewable Fuel Standard] volume requirements, taking RFS volume requirements backward."

The president's hands-on approach to the highly technical program is unusual, and it reflects the importance of the competing industries — oil and agriculture — as central pieces of Trump's political base. But finding a compromise has proved elusive.

Trump last week [promised a "giant package"](#) of changes, claiming that "the farmers are going to be so happy when they see what we are doing for ethanol." Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and White House aides are negotiating details of a plan to boost both corn ethanol and soy-based biodiesel by raising blending requirements for next year.

The plan under consideration would add about 875 million gallons to refiners' obligations, but that accounts for just a third of the volume affected by the EPA waivers.

On your radar: The administration is soon expected to roll out details of the final package.

TRADE AID BEHIND PROJECTED FARM INCOME BUMP: USDA on Friday projected that net farm income in 2019 would reach \$88 billion, a nearly 5 percent increase over last year. But the turnaround doesn't prove that the farm economy is rebounding — it's bolstered by an expected 43 percent jump in direct government payments to farmers, including the Trump administration's trade relief program, [writes Pro Ag's Catherine Boudreau](#).

— **USDA expects to pay out \$19.5 billion in direct subsidies to farmers** in fiscal 2019 (not including crop insurance). That includes

\$10.7 billion in trade relief payments for both 2018 and 2019 production, as well as [disaster aid](#) and traditional [farm bill](#) programs.

— **The median farm income is expected to be a loss of \$1,644.**

Farm sector debt is projected to continue rising, along with debt-to-asset ratios, leaving producers at the highest risk of insolvency since 2009 — but still relatively close to historical averages over the last three decades.

— **Farm exports to China are expected to slightly increase** to \$7.5 billion next year. That's [due to rising pork sales](#) as African swine fever decimates hog herds in Asia. Chinese demand for U.S. soybeans remains the "greatest unknown," USDA said in its first [trade forecast](#) for fiscal 2020.

Checking in on trade aid: Delays in sending out trade relief checks to farmers have cost the government more than \$1 million in interest, [NBC reports](#). Farm Service Agency offices have been swamped with producers seeking payments. And because the 2019 package was designed differently than the first round in 2018, FSA workers have had to learn the new program on the fly.

FOCUS ON CLEAN ENERGY: What are the next steps for Congress on clean energy? Join POLITICO on Tuesday, September 10 for a deep-dive conversation on the priorities that are changing how Democrats and Republicans work on this issue. [RSVP now](#).

TRADE CORNER

AG CHEERS POTENTIAL WINS IN JAPAN DEAL: Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe [announced a trade agreement "in principle"](#) last week at the G-7 summit in France, with the goal of

signing a final deal at the U.N. General Assembly later this month. The pact could go a long way toward regaining U.S. agriculture's market access in Japan after Trump pulled out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2017 — and it might help offset some trade losses from the feud with China.

Farm groups have widely cheered the announcement, including pork producers who count Japan as one of their most lucrative export markets. Wheat growers said the deal will help them compete with Australian and Canadian exporters who have benefitted from greater access under the new 11-nation TPP that took effect this year.

Under the tentative deal, Japan would purchase more corn from U.S. farmers, helping relieve the surplus that's built up due to trade tension and high production. NCGA last week said it was seeking more details from the administration but called the announcement "encouraging news," given Japan's position as the second-largest buyer of U.S. corn.

Other potential winners: U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the expected agreement will also require Japan to open its market to more U.S. beef, dairy, wine and ethanol, among other agricultural goods. Producers will benefit from "substantial reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers across the board," Lighthizer said.

TRUMP'S SHRINKING CHANCE FOR A CHINA DEAL: New 15 percent duties on Chinese products [went into effect on Sunday](#), the latest escalation in a trade war that shows no signs of slowing in its second year. Beijing filed a complaint on Monday with the WTO about Trump's tariffs, [per Reuters](#).

As tit-for-tat tariffs continue and relations appear to have worsened, trade insiders say Trump is botching his chances to strike a long-term deal with China, [write Pro Trade's Adam Behsudi and Doug Palmer](#).

THE HOUSE DEMS PUSHING TO RATIFY USMCA: Centrist

freshmen Democrats like Virginia Rep. [Abigail Spanberger](#) were seen as the key to wresting control of the House from Republicans in the 2018 midterms. Now the House Ag member and other moderate Democratic newcomers could be essential in securing a vote on Trump's new North American trade pact this year.

Pro Trade's Megan Cassella caught up with Spanberger during a two-day swing through her central Virginia district's rural regions, where she heard from farmers seeking relief from trade fights that have gutted their profits. [Here's the story.](#)

CHILE 2019: Join APEC leaders, global CEOs, visionary entrepreneurs, and thought leaders from around the world at **APEC CEO Summit Chile 2019**, the largest and most influential annual meeting of business and government leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, from November 14-16. POLITICO is a premier media partner of the summit. Learn more [HERE](#).

ROW CROPS

— **Five cell-based meat companies formed a coalition to represent the burgeoning sector's interest in Washington.** The new Alliance for Meat, Poultry & Seafood Innovation includes well-financed startups like Memphis Meats and JUST. [Our Helena Bottemiller Evich has more.](#)

— **House leaders are preparing to pass a stopgap funding bill to keep agencies open through November or early December,** [reports Pro Budget's Jennifer Scholtes.](#) The House has passed 10 of the 12 annual appropriations measures for fiscal 2020, which begins Oct. 1., but the Senate has yet to pass (or even introduce) any spending

bills.

— **Monsanto lawyers in Washington intervened at the highest levels of the Justice Department** earlier this year to halt a felony case against the company for spraying a banned, highly toxic pesticide in Hawaii, [Yahoo reports](#).

— **Dicamba is again drifting onto millions of acres of nonresistant crops and causing damage**, despite state and federal efforts to control the volatile pesticide. Illinois farmers have reported record levels of crop damage in 2019 due to drift, including 590 dicamba-related complaints, [the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting writes](#).

— **Old-school veggie burgers are caught in the crossfire between the meat industry and plant-based alternatives**. [The Washington Post has the story](#).

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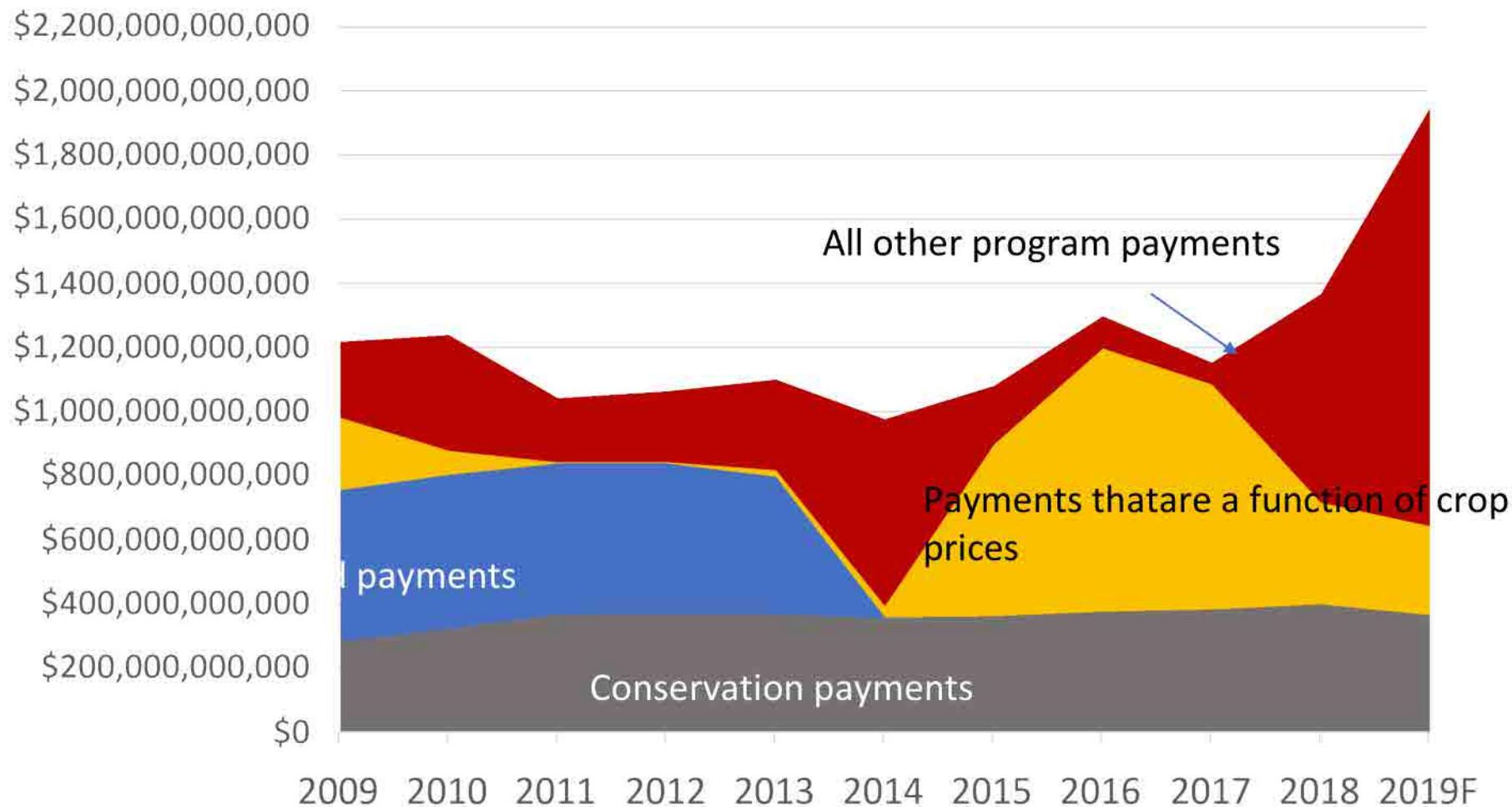
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Government Farm Program Payments to Farm Producers, 2009-19F



Data as of August 30, 2019F = forecast values Source: USDA ERS Farm Income and Wealth Statistics

From: Tomckinney
Sent: 27 Nov 2019 19:25:00 -0500
To: McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: FW: Instant Update: USDA: Nearly one-third of 2019 farm earnings due to subsidies, insurance

(b)(5) - Deliberative

On Nov 27, 2019 at 2:51 PM, <[DC McKinney](#)> wrote:

(b)(5) - Deliberative

Thoughts?

Ted

USDA: Nearly one-third of 2019 farm earnings due to subsidies, insurance

11/27/19 2:30 PM By [Philip Brasher](#)

KEYWORDS [Agriculture Department corn Economic Research Service market facilitation program soybeans usda](#)



Farm earnings are projected to rise more than 10% this year, but nearly a third of producers' net income will come from crop insurance benefits and direct government payments, including the Trump administration's trade assistance.

Net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is expected to rise to \$92.5 billion in 2019, a \$8.5-billion increase over 2018, [USDA's Economic Research Service reported Wednesday](#). Some 31% of that income will come from government payments and crop insurance benefits, said ERS economist Carrie Litkowski.

Farmers are expected to get \$14.3 billion in 2019 from the Market Facilitation Program, which was created last year to compensate farmers for the impact of President Donald Trump's trade wars. MFP will account for more than half of the \$22.4 billion in direct government payments estimated for 2019. Last year, government payments totaled \$13.7 billion.

Crop insurance indemnities, less premiums, are expected to total \$6.5 billion for 2019, the highest level since 2013, reflecting the widespread weather problems this year, said Litkowski.

Another measure of farm profitability, net cash farm income, is forecast to reach \$119 billion this year, a 15% increase, or \$15.5 billion, from 2018. Net cash farm income includes cash receipts from farming along with farm-related income, including government payments, less cash expenses. It doesn't include non-cash expenses such as depreciation.

The farm economy looks stronger this year when the estimates are limited to commercial farms. Farms that have an annual gross cash farm income of more than \$350,000 and smaller operations where farming is reported as the operator's primary occupation, are expected to [average \\$91,800 in net cash farm income](#) in 2019, a 19.5% increase from 2018. It would be the first annual increase after four consecutive years of declines for those operations.

Those commercial farms, which ERS defines as "farm businesses," account for less than half of total U.S. farms but 90% of total production. They also hold most of the sector's assets and debt.

Commercial farms where corn is the primary crop are projected to have average net cash farm income of \$206,400 this year, an increase of 20% from 2018. Earnings for soybean operations are estimated to rise 33.5% to \$102,400.

Net cash income for wheat operations is estimated at \$134,000 (up 34.8% from 2018), cotton farms are forecast to make \$224,400 on average (up 17.9%) and net income for specialty crops is estimated at \$203,600 (up 7.8%).

The latest forecast of total net farm income for all of U.S. agriculture is \$4.5 billion higher than the August estimate of \$88 billion, in part due to the second tranche of MFP payments released this month.

The economists raised their estimate for net crop cash receipts by \$3.7 billion from August. They are now expected to rise by \$1.9 billion, or 1%, from 2018 levels. In August, USDA projected farmers' crop profits would drop by \$3.3 billion, or 1.7%.

Net crop cash receipts are estimated to reach \$197.4 billion in 2019, which would be the highest level since that reached \$212 billion in 2014. Corn receipts are estimated to rise \$900 million to \$48.7 billion, a 1.9% increase from 2018 because of reduced production and yields this year. But soybean receipts are estimated to fall \$1.8 billion, or 4.9% due to declines in prices and volumes sold.

For more news, go to www.Agri-Pulse.com.

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From: Dave Bramlage
Sent: 23 May 2019 23:47:49 +0000
To: Rossi, Ted
Cc: Michael Snow; Scott Seyler; steve@ronjoneshardwood.com; David Whitten; tom@appalachianwood.org; l.christie@nhla.com; Cole, Dana; Darwin Murray; Jeff Meyer; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA Agriculture Relief Program
Attachments: ~WRD000.jpg, ~WRD000.jpg, ~WRD000.jpg, ~WRD000.jpg, ~WRD000.jpg, ~WRD000.jpg

Mike,

Very well written. It seems obvious, that our message, even that we are part of Agriculture, has truly fallen on deaf ears. For that, I am very disappointed.

Dave Bramlage
 Cole Hardwood, Inc.
dave@colehardwood.com

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2019, at 5:15 PM, Rossi, Ted <TRossi@rossilumber.com> wrote:

Good email Mike!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2019, at 5:58 PM, Michael Snow <msnow@ahec.org> wrote:

Dear AHEC Executive Committee,

Just wanted to share with you my email to our "wood products team" contacts at USDA/FAS. While I know this was not a decision that they had any part in making, I thought it was important to share our disappointment with all possible levels of the USDA.

Mike

MICHAEL S SNOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<[image001.png](#)>

AHEC Headquarters
 42777 Trade West Drive
 Sterling, VA 20166

americanhardwood.org
ahec.org

From: Michael Snow <msnow@ahec.org>
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 8:19 PM
To: "Mazon, Enrique - FAS" <Enrique.Mazon@fas.usda.gov>, Curt Alt <curt.alt@fas.usda.gov>, Bill Bomersheim <william.bomersheim@fas.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: USDA Agriculture Relief Program

Dear Enrique, Curt and Bill,

Greetings from Interzum Cologne. I am sitting here on a trade show stand with about 30 struggling hardwood mills who are very curious about how the USDA decided on the list of industries that were included in the relief program—and more importantly—those that were left out. I know this is not an FAS decision but any insight would be greatly appreciated.

Despite the fact that the three quarters leading up to the tariff implementation in July 2018 were our highest levels of exports to China EVER, following the implementation, the last three quarters have seen a decline of more than \$470 million (-42%) As a result, we have already lost three member companies to bankruptcy and several others are on the brink. Our industry is facing a greater crisis now than during the 2008 financial meltdown and are struggling to understand why alfalfa qualifies for relief but an industry that depends on exports to China for 25% of its entire production and employs tens of thousands of workers does not. Please understand this is not a criticism of FAS and we realize that the decision was made far removed from your office. Nevertheless, I am being asked my industry to ascertain what, if anything, we can do differently to ensure that hardwood is indeed considered an agricultural product across all levels of the USDA and that our industry is suffering as much as any from this prolonged trade war.

Thanks

Mike

From: Cole, Dana <dana.cole@hardwoodfederation.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 6:21 PM
Cc: Moon, Cary; 'Patrick Rita'
Subject: USDA Agriculture Relief Program

Good Afternoon All: I just received the below release regarding the USDA relief program for Agriculture. At this point it does not appear that hardwoods has been included. However, I will be participating in a call later this afternoon where hopefully more information will be available.

This does not mean we should not continue to push the Administration and the White House for some sort of relief measures. Hardwood companies should still try to reach out to members of Congress when they are in their home states and districts next week...and encourage their employees to do the same. Associations can help encourage their members by forwarding the recess action memo we sent out earlier today. I will keep you informed as things develop.

Dana

Press Release

USDA Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption

(Washington, D.C., May 23, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will take several actions to assist farmers in response to trade damage from unjustified retaliation and trade disruption. President Trump directed Secretary Perdue to craft a relief strategy to support American agricultural producers while the Administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets in the long run to help American farmers compete globally. Specifically, the President has authorized USDA to provide up to \$16 billion in programs, which is in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions. These programs will assist agricultural producers while President Trump works to address long-standing market access barriers.

“China hasn’t played by the rules for a long time and President Trump is standing up to them, sending the clear message that the United States will no longer tolerate their unfair trade practices, which include non-tariff trade barriers and the theft of intellectual property. President Trump has great affection for America’s farmers and ranchers, and he knows they are bearing the brunt of these trade disputes. In fact, I’ve never known of a president that has been more concerned or interested in farmer wellbeing and long-term profitability than President Trump,” said Secretary Perdue. “The plan we are announcing today ensures farmers do not bear the brunt of unfair retaliatory tariffs imposed by China and other trading partners. Our team at USDA reflected on what worked well and gathered feedback on last year’s program to make this one even stronger and more effective for farmers. Our farmers work hard, are the most productive in the world, and we aim to match their enthusiasm and patriotism as we support them.”

Background:

American farmers have dealt with unjustified retaliatory tariffs and years of non-tariff trade disruptions, which have curtailed U.S. exports to China. Trade damages from such retaliation and market distortions have impacted a host of U.S. commodities,

including crops like soybeans, corn, wheat, cotton, rice, and sorghum; livestock products like milk and pork; and many fruits, nuts, and other crops. High tariffs disrupt normal marketing patterns, raising costs by forcing commodities to find new markets. Additionally, American goods shipped to China have been slowed from reaching market by unusually strict or cumbersome entry procedures, which affect the quality and marketability of perishable crops. These boost marketing costs and unfairly affect our producers. USDA will use the following programs to assist farmers:

- **Market Facilitation Program (MFP)** for 2019, authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will provide \$14.5 billion in direct payments to producers.

o Producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, upland cotton, and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019, and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Moreover, total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

o Dairy producers will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history and hog producers will receive a payment based on hog and pig inventory for a later-specified time frame.

o Tree nut producers, fresh sweet cherry producers, cranberry producers, and fresh grape producers will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of production.

o These payments will help farmers to absorb some of the additional costs of managing disrupted markets, to deal with surplus commodities, and to expand and develop new markets at home and abroad.

o Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. The first tranche will begin in late July/early August as soon as practical after Farm Service Agency crop reporting is completed by July 15th. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

- Additionally, CCC Charter Act authority will be used to implement a \$1.4 billion **Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP)** through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to purchase surplus commodities affected by trade retaliation such as fruits, vegetables, some processed foods, beef, pork, lamb, poultry, and milk for distribution by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to food banks, schools, and other outlets serving low-income individuals.
- Finally, the CCC will use its Charter Act authority for \$100 million to be issued through the **Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP)** administered by the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) to assist in developing new export markets on behalf of producers.

Further details regarding eligibility and payment rates will be released at a later date.

###

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From: Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 4 Dec 2019 15:02:25 +0000
To: McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Trip to Montana
Attachments: McKinney Talking Points 12.4.19 .docx

Good morning Sir – Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (6 pp.)

I am a last minute addition to your trip to Montana. We are staying at different hotels, but I can meet you in the lobby of (b) (6) (or another location of your choosing) tomorrow morning at a time that works best for you. I will have printed copies of the briefing material Erica sent your way, and I am waiting on MGGA to get back to me about possible media interviews before your panel. I know your staff provides you with the latest and greatest talking points on trade, but attached are the most recent talking points we have put together for Secretary Perdue in case you are interested in reviewing.

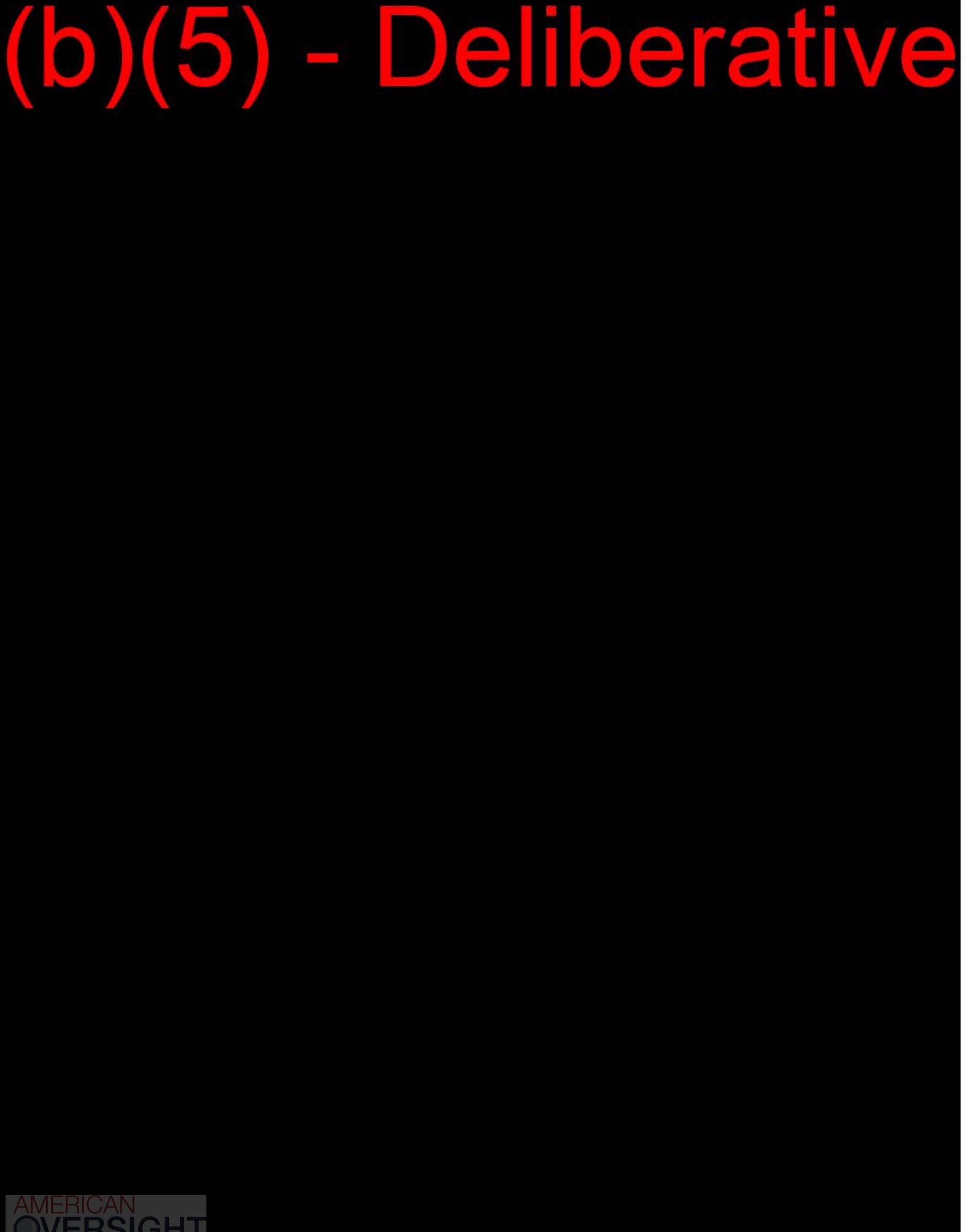
Please let me know if you need anything else, and I will see you tomorrow!

Audra

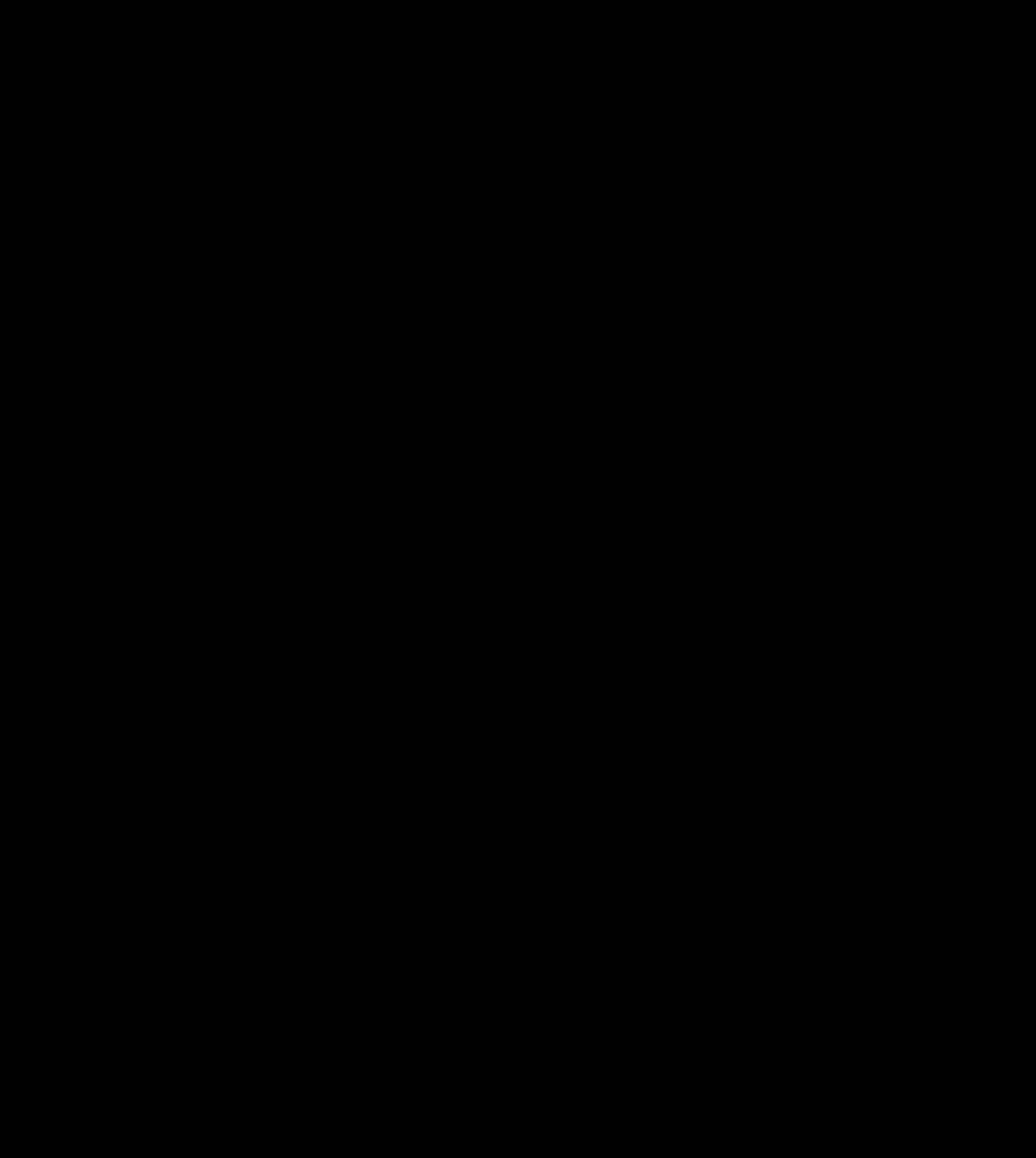


Audra Weeks
Press Assistant
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 690-0060
Cell: (b) (6)

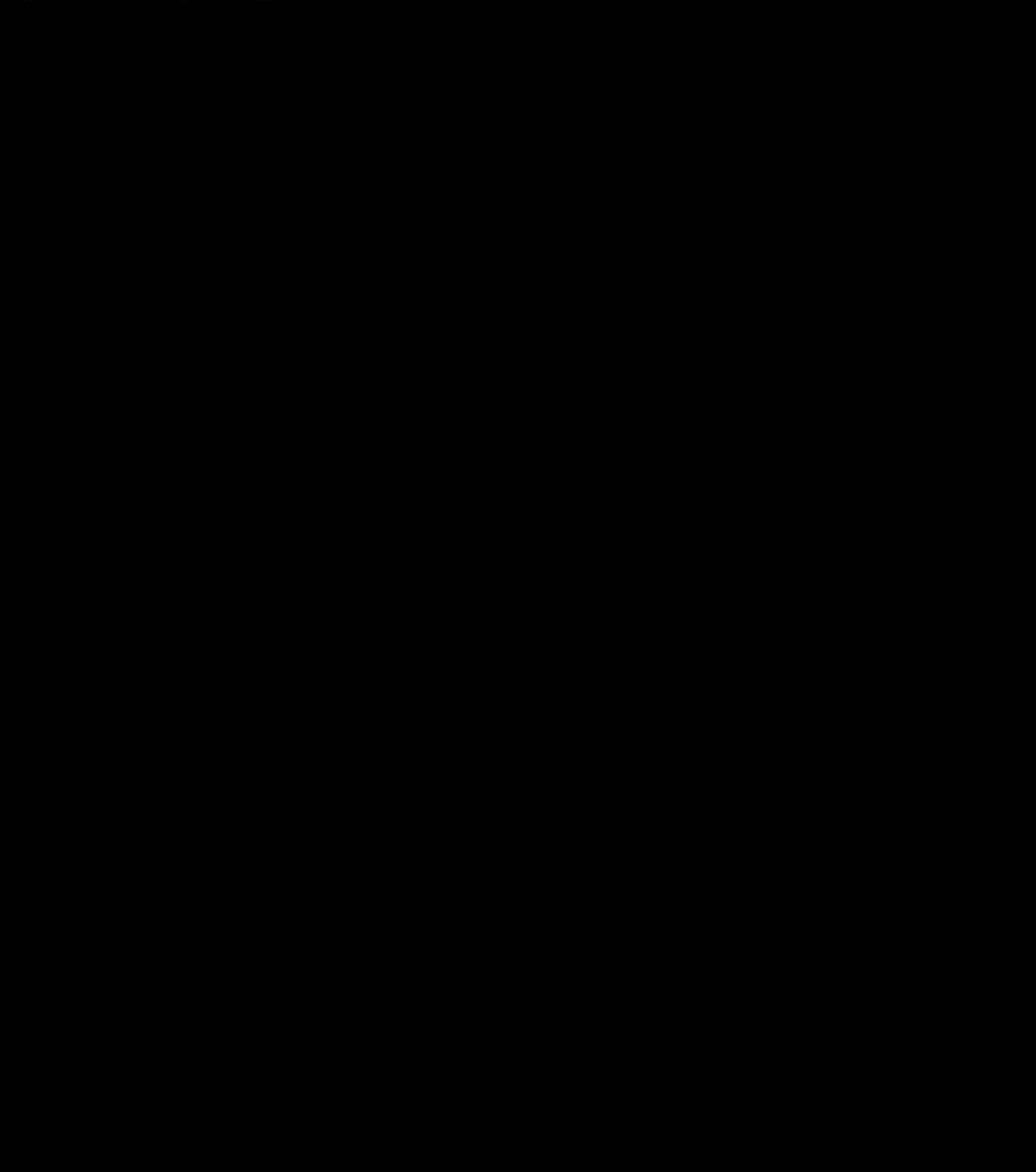
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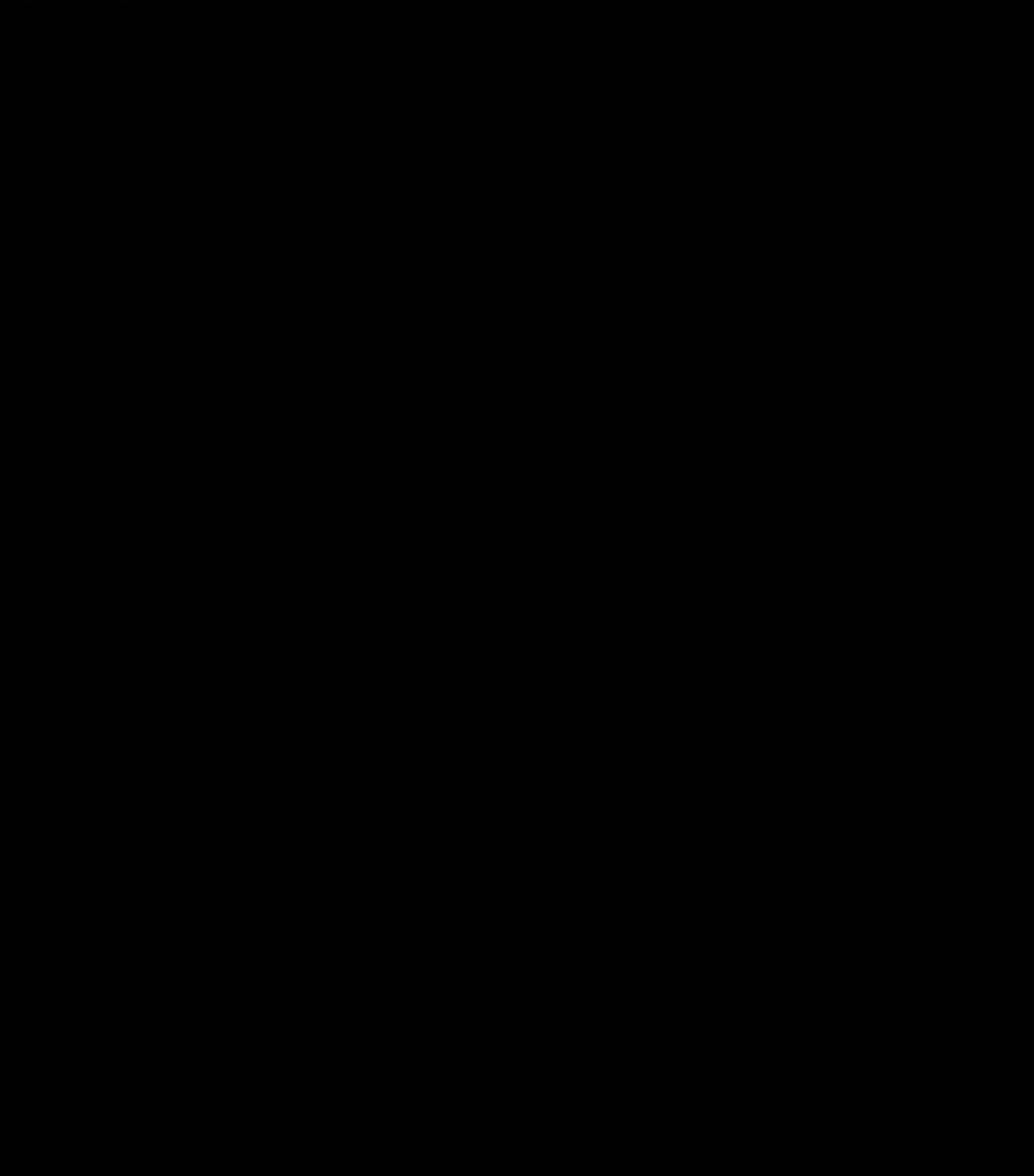
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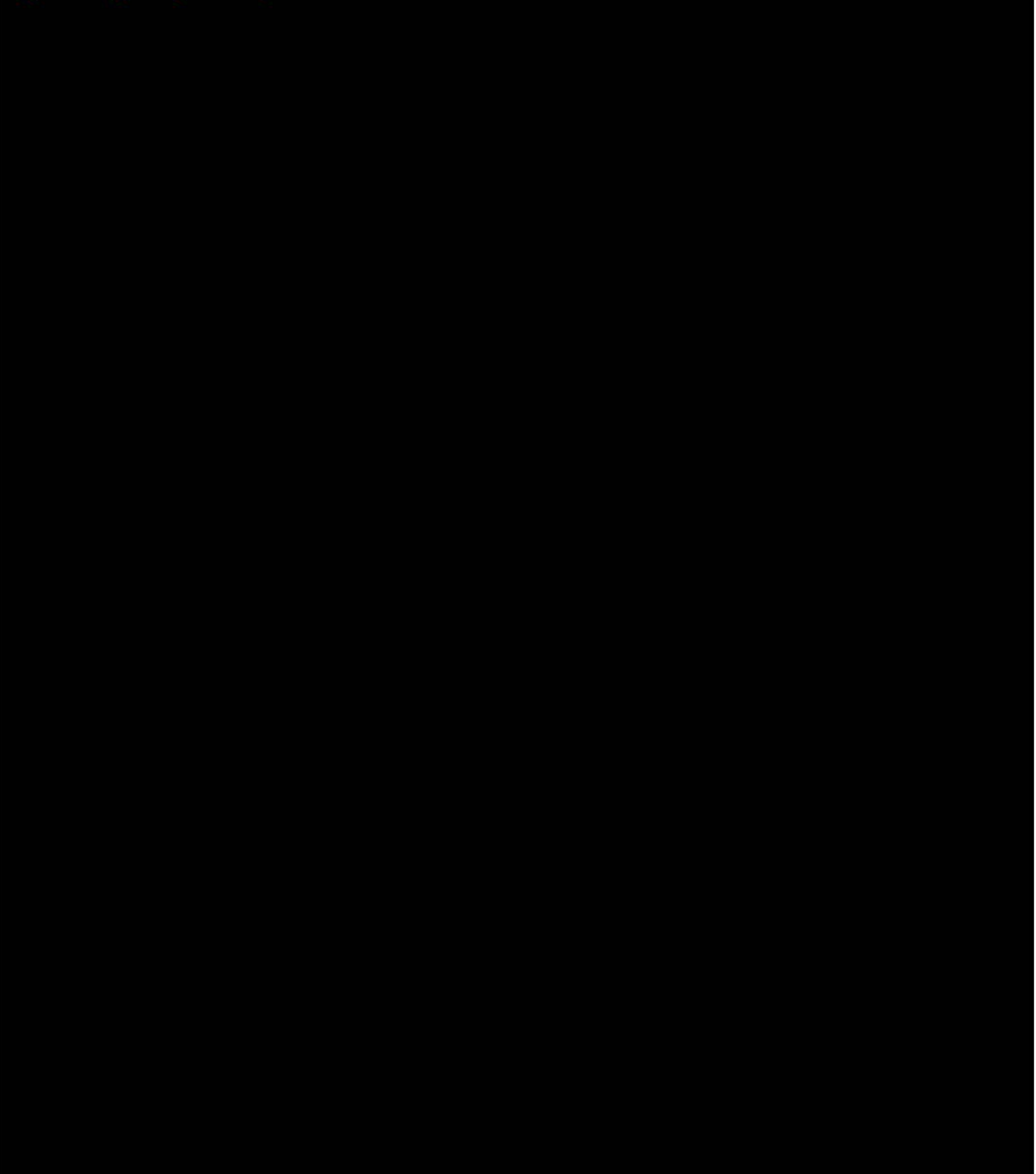
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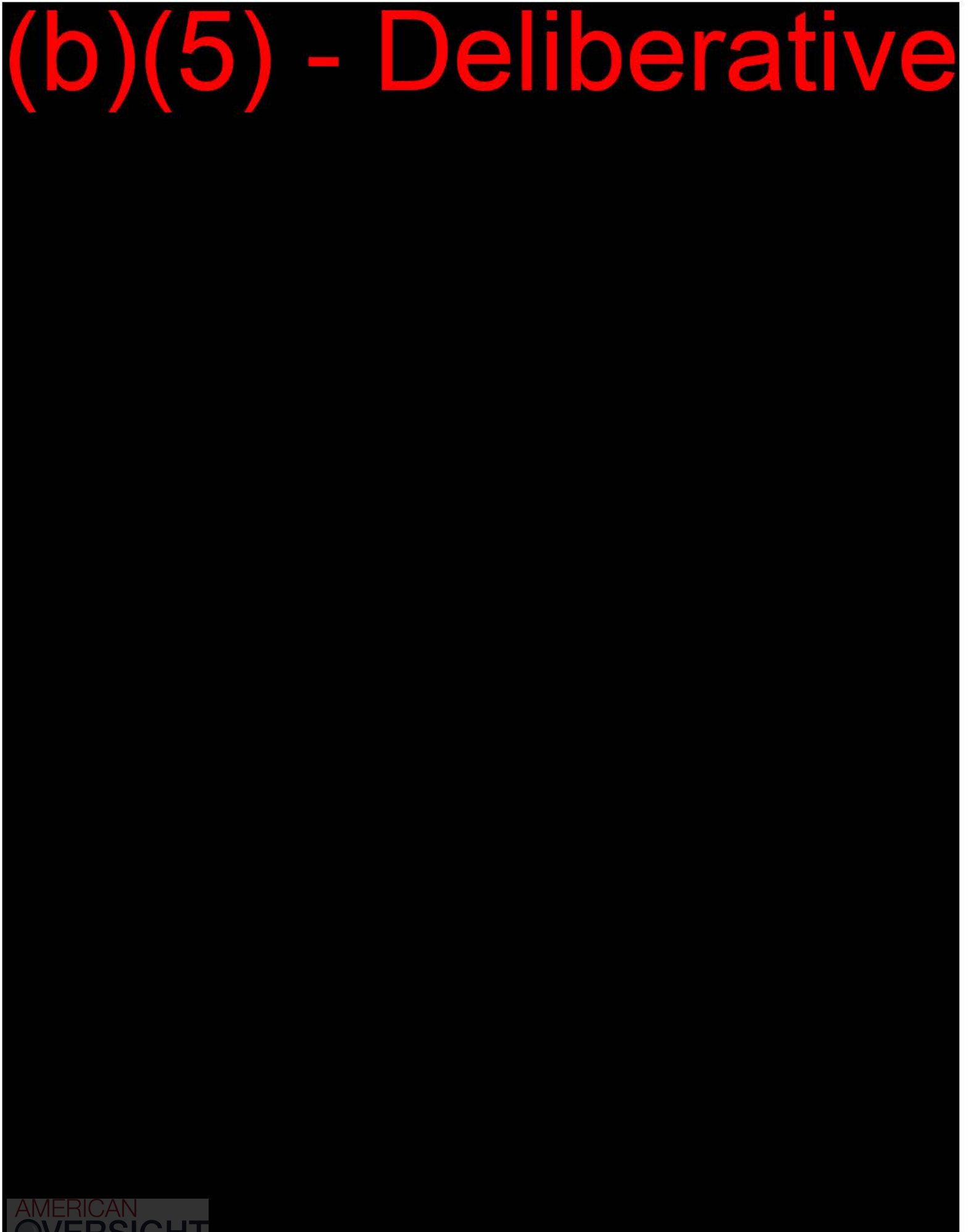
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From: Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 31 Oct 2019 17:20:48 +0000
To: McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: National FFA Convention Interview Briefs
Attachments: McKinney Agri-Pulse Brief 11.1.19.docx, McKinney RFD-TV Brief 11.1.19.docx, Talking Points for McKinney 10.31.19.docx

Attachment 1: Non-Responsive Record (2 pp.)

Attachment 2: Non-Responsive Record (2 pp.)

Hello Sir –

Attachment 3: Withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (5 pp.)

Attached are two interview briefs for tomorrow and updated talking points Secretary Perdue recently used. I will see you tomorrow morning bright and early in the hotel lobby. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Audra



Audra Weeks

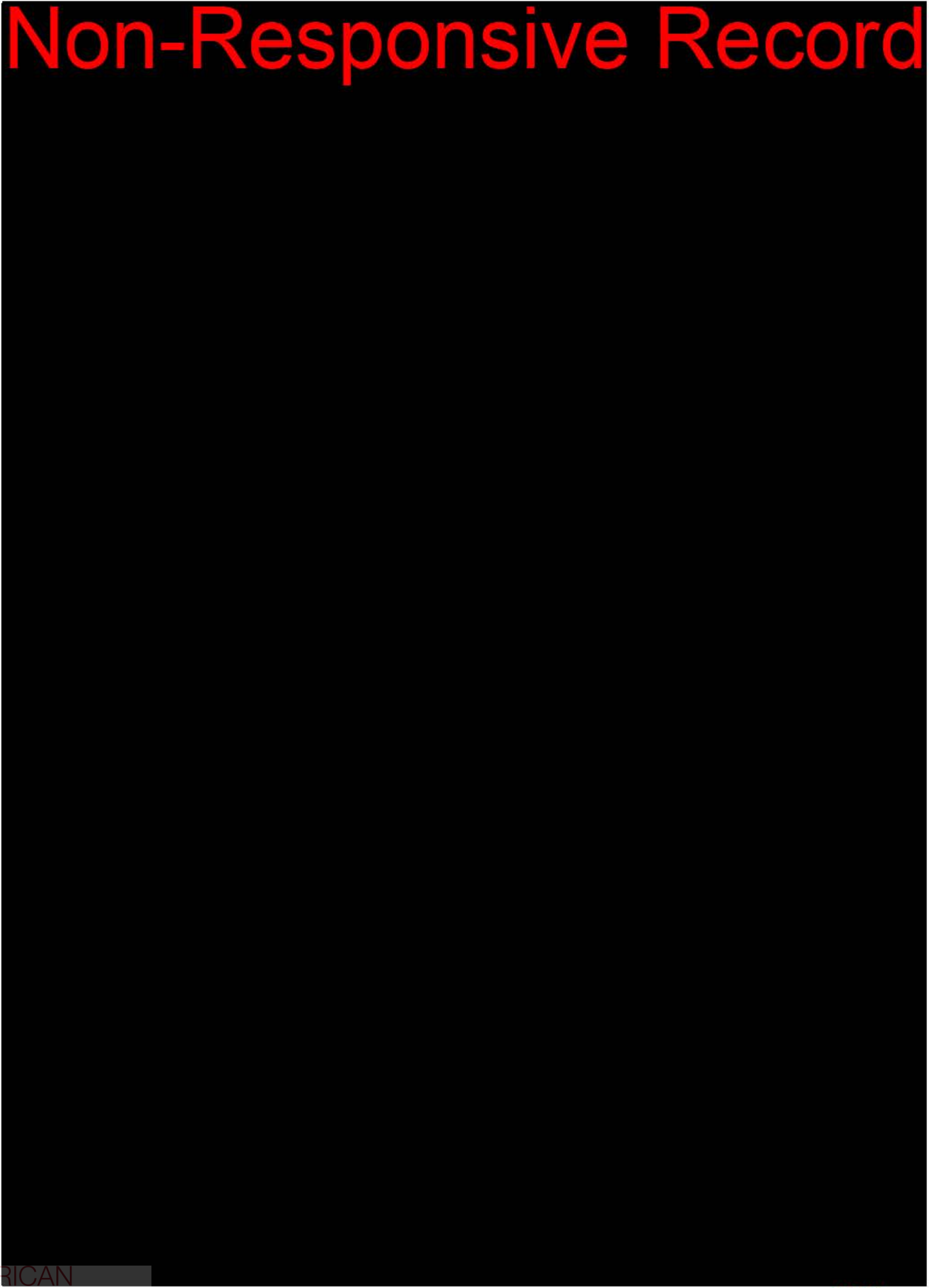
Press Assistant

United States Department of Agriculture

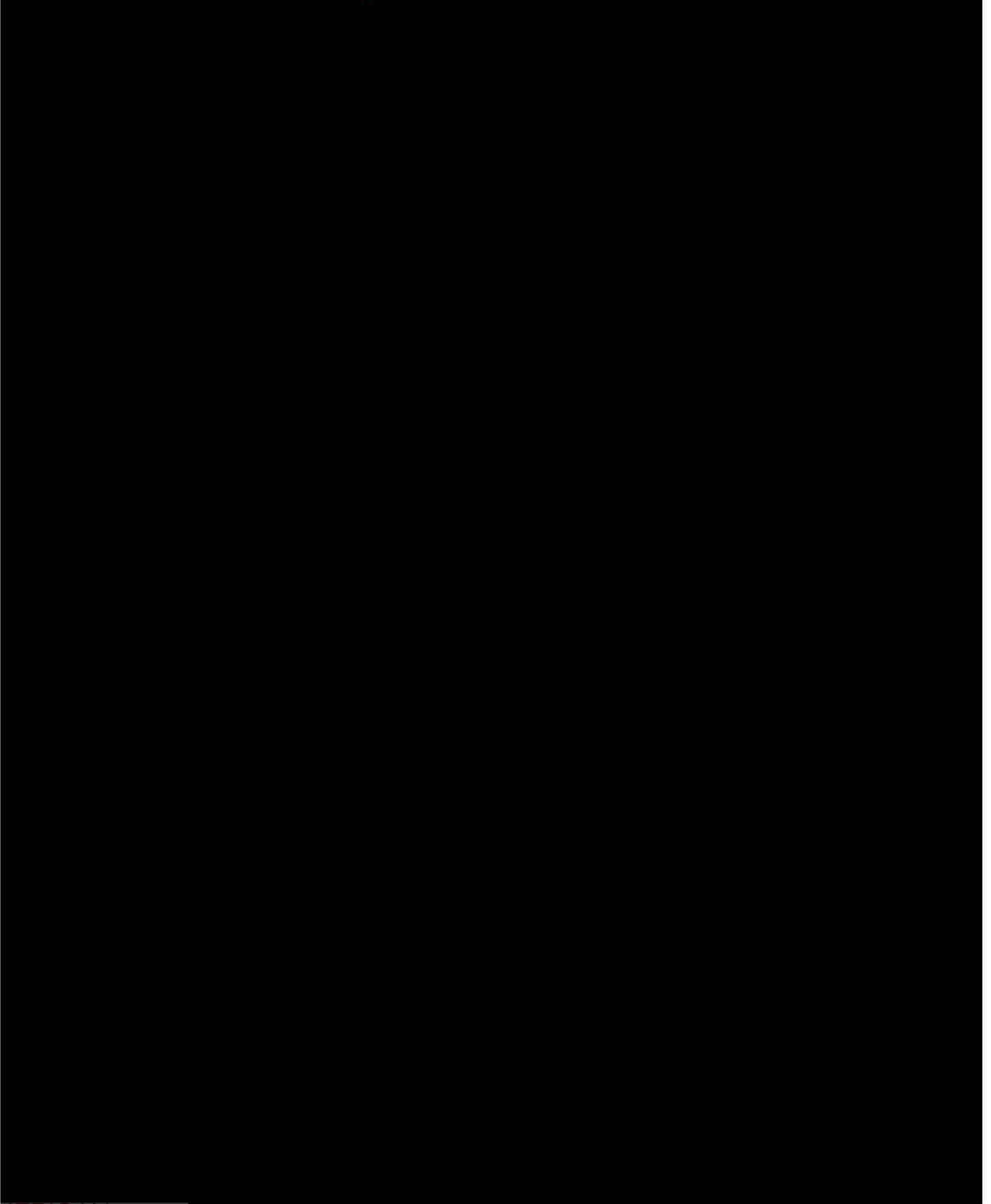
Office: (202) 690-0060

Cell: (b) (6)

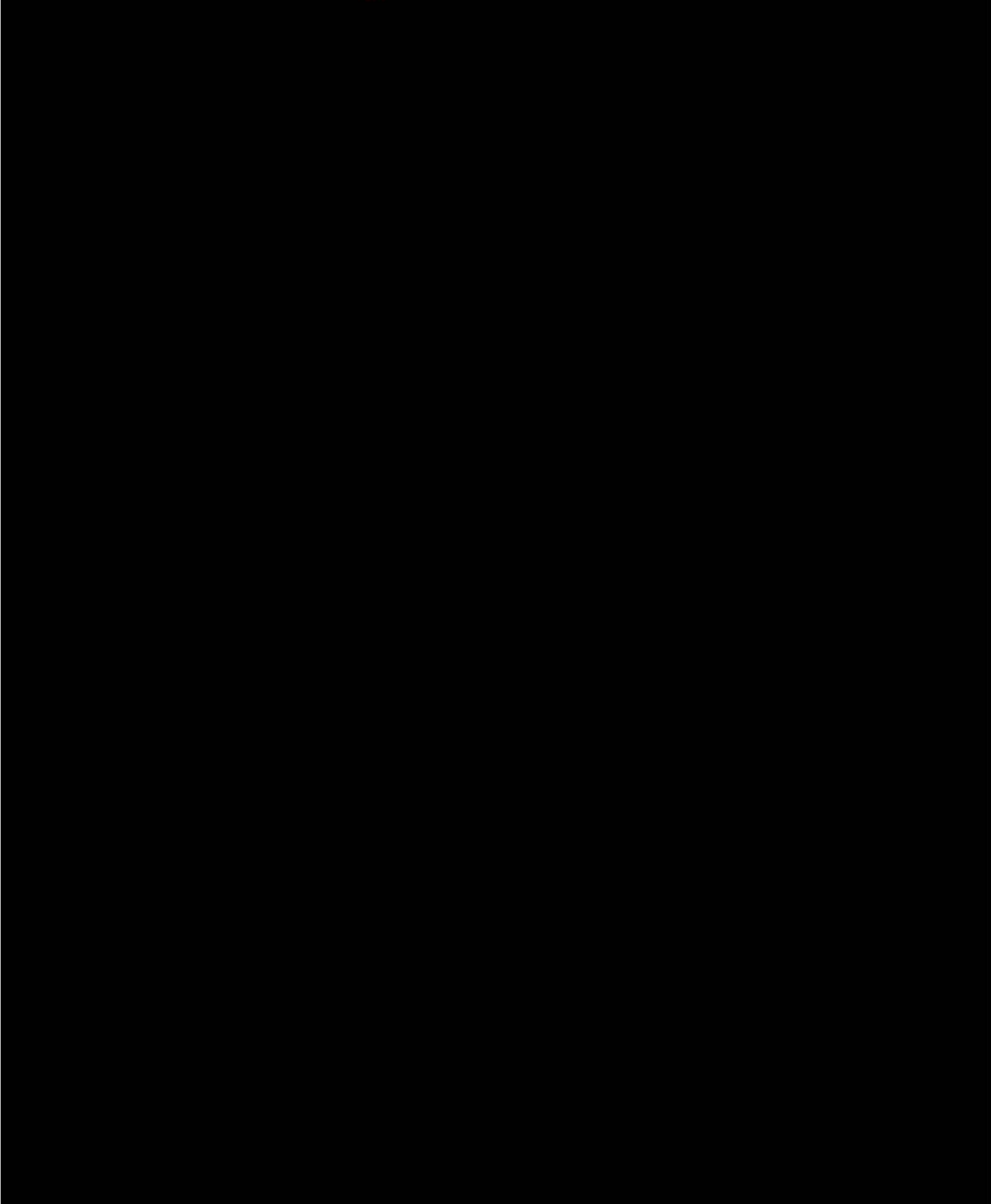
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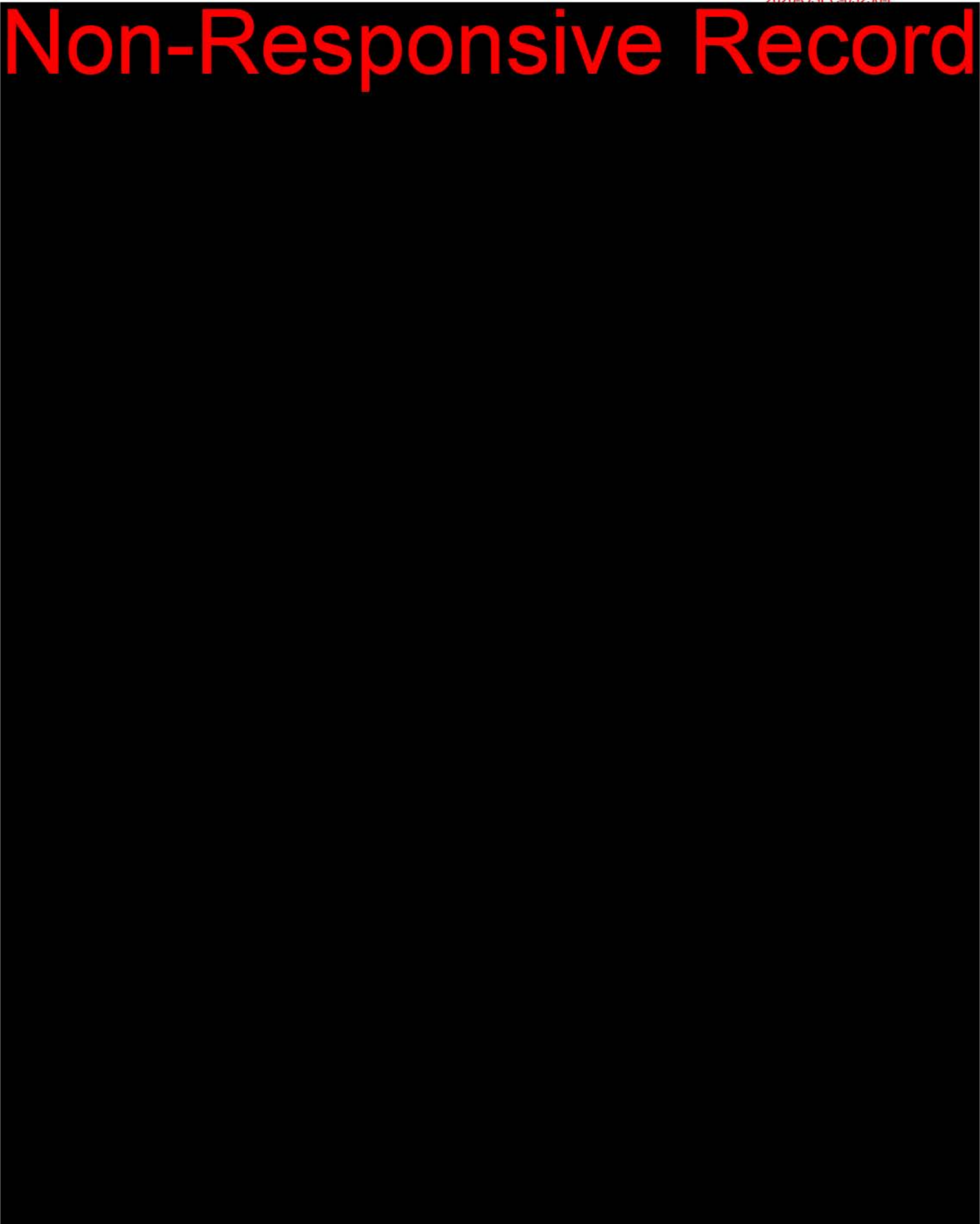
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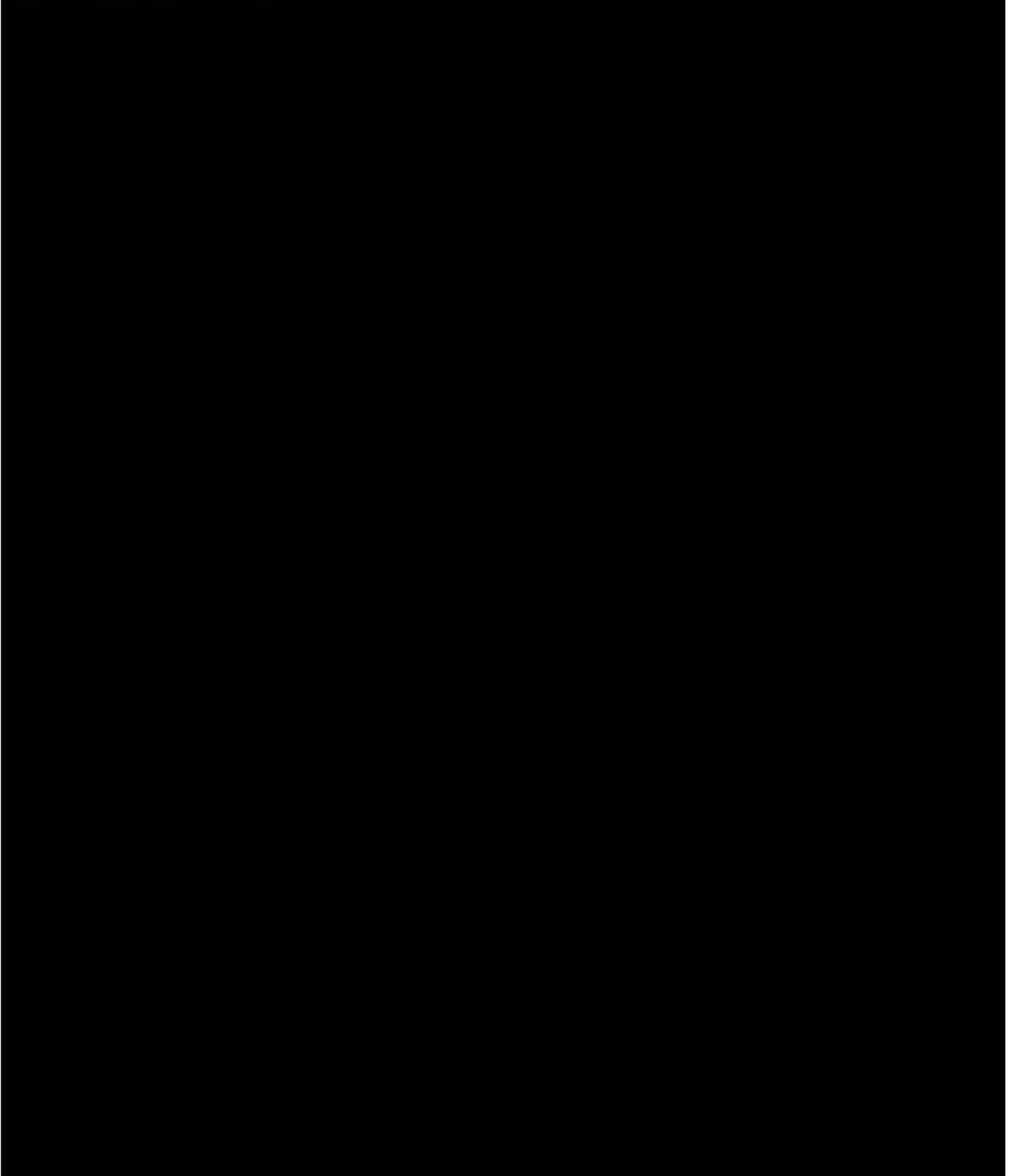
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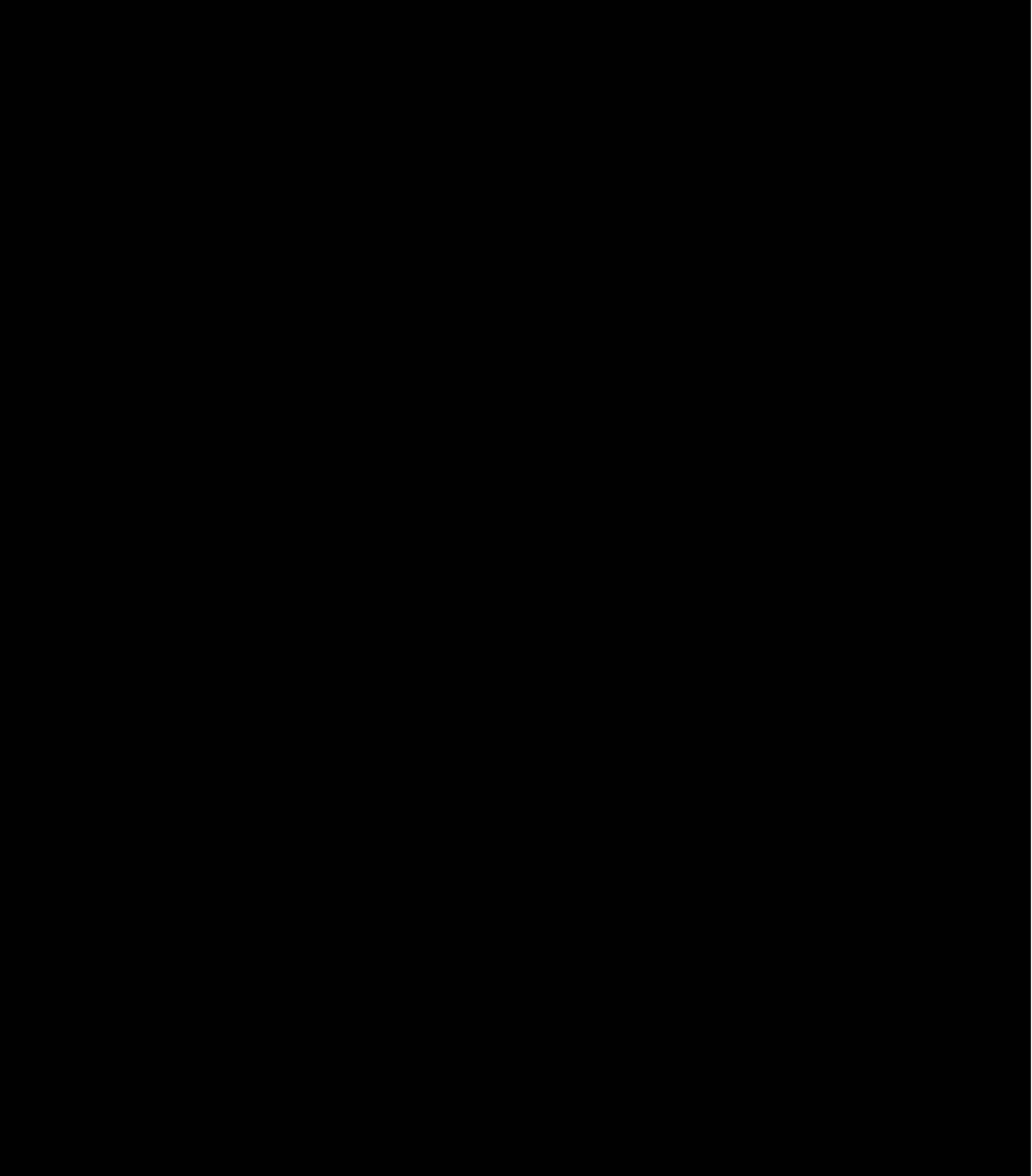
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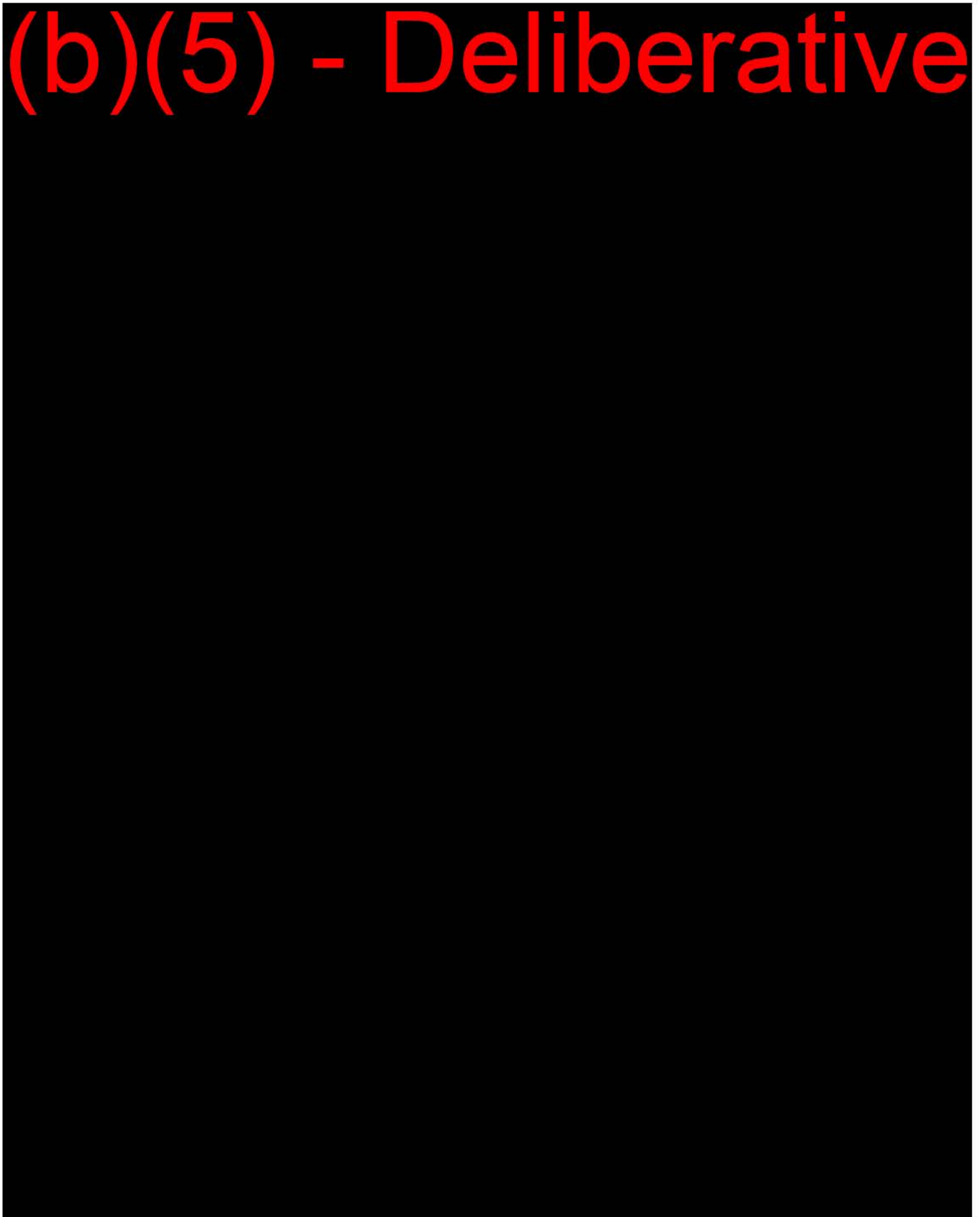
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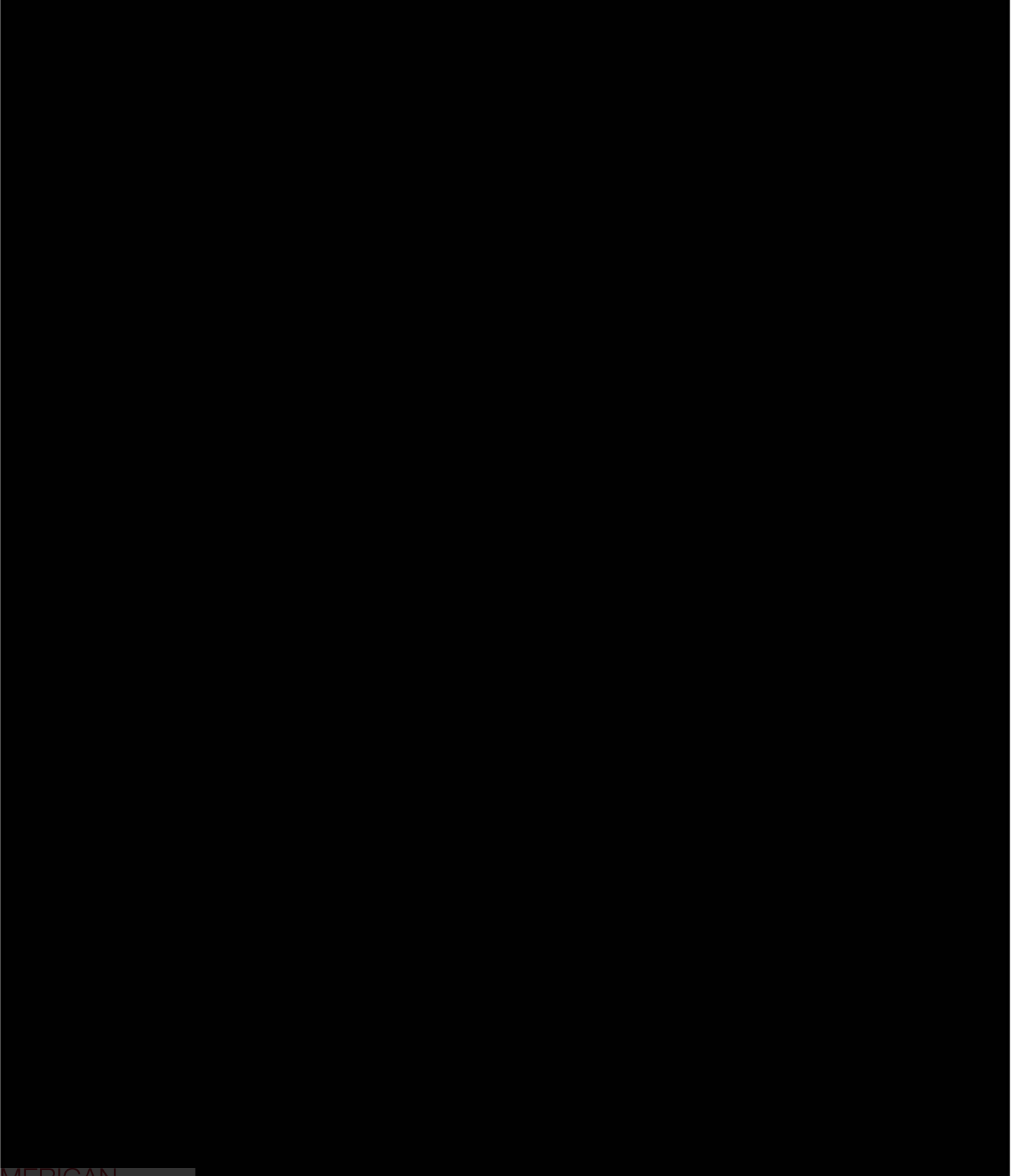
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(b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC
Sent: 22 May 2019 02:11:58 +0000 Stephen Censky
To: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (2 pp.)
Subject: RE: Mitigation release for review
Attachments: Mitigation 2 Release slc comments pb.docx

(b)(5) - Deliberative

From: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC Stephen Censky
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 5:16 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Mitigation release for review

Michawn,

Good job! I'm sending my comments/questions **(b)(5) Deliberative Process**

(b)(5) - Deliberative

My questions are a bit more complicated. With regard to **(b)(5) Deliberative Process**

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Page - One ?
 Page - Two ?

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(b)(5) - Deliberative?

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
 Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office (b) (6)

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Sydow, Sharon - OCE <sharon.sydow@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Lyons, Maggie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maggie.Lyons@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC <SLC1@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC 20174, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: Mitigation release for review

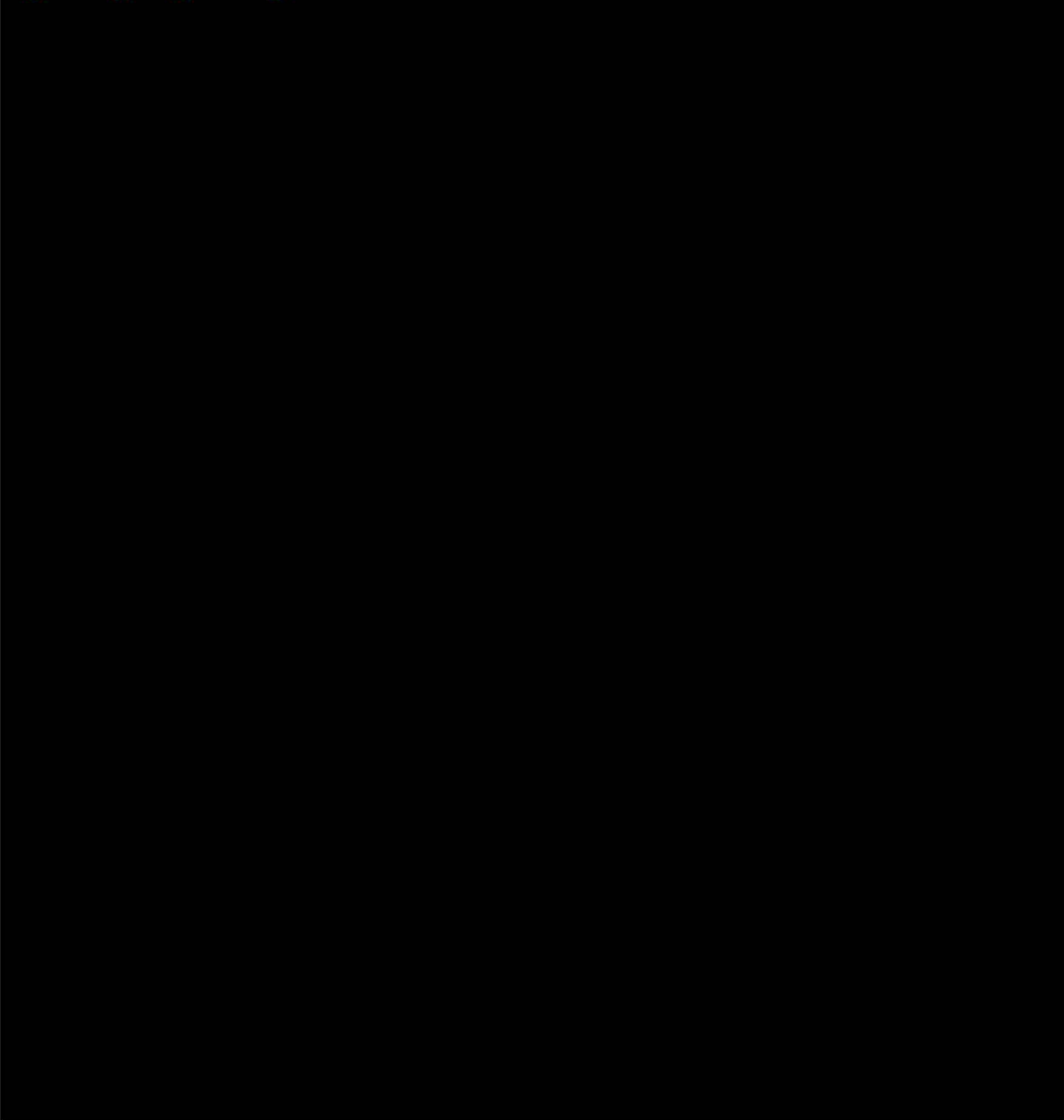
Stephen Censky

All – please see attached press release. Let me know if you have edits or additions by 7:00am tomorrow so I can have a final copy for the trade update meeting at 9:00am.

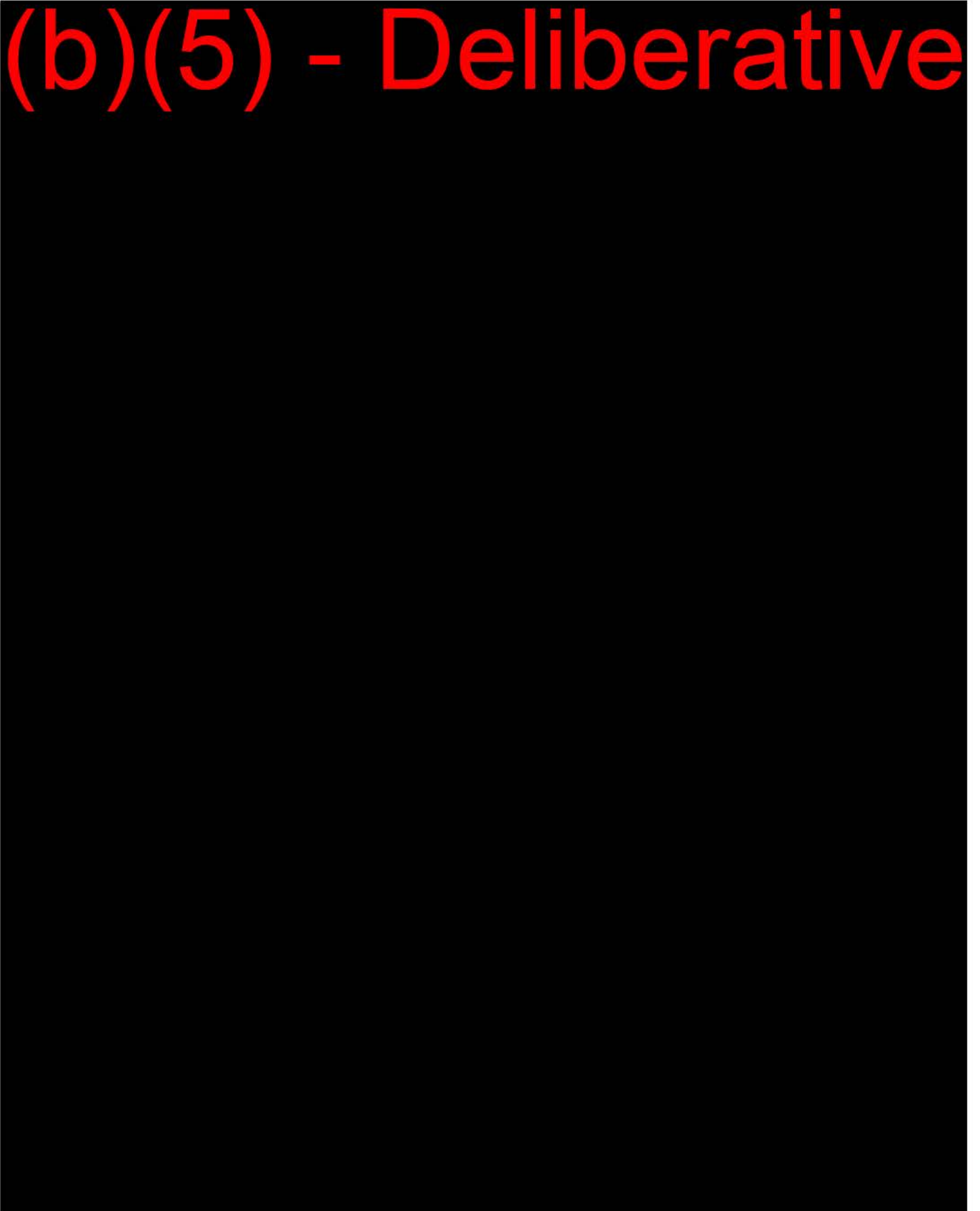
Thanks,
Michawn

Michawn Rich
 Communications Director
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202.720.4623

(b)(5) - Deliberative



(b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC
Sent: 23 Aug 2019 14:16:55 +0000
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Subject: Rob J's Trade Mitigation Report
Attachments: USDA Trade Methodology Report 2019.pdf

Bill –

Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (9 pp.)

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative I assume

you'll get asked this week or next about why they are what they are.

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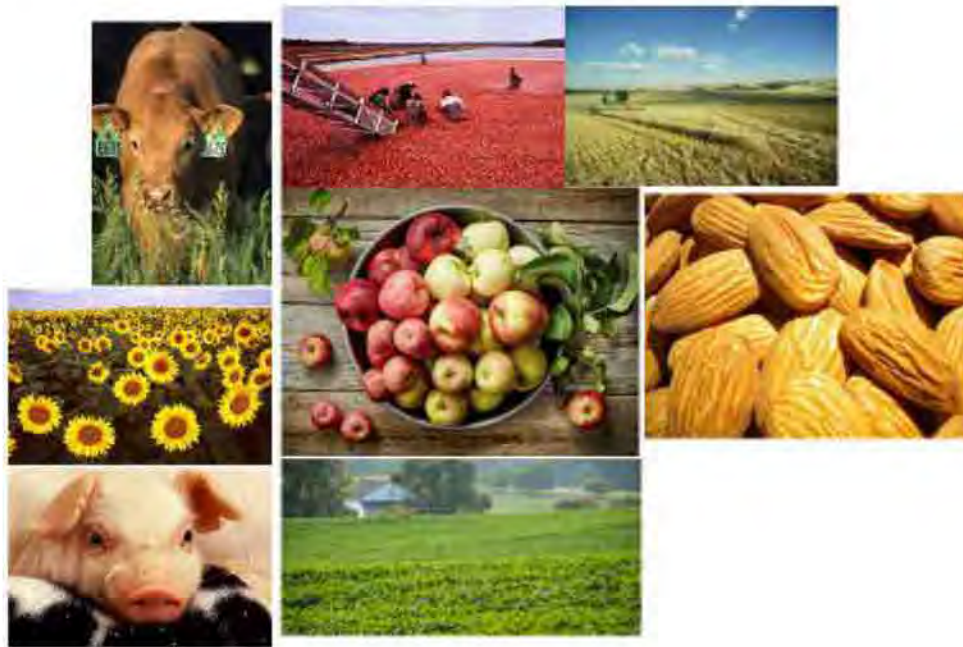
Peter Bachmann

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Farm Production, Conservation, and Trade

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8026
Cell: (b)(5) - Deliberative



Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Chief Economist
August 22, 2019**

Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program and Food Purchase and Distribution Program

Executive Summary

This paper outlines the methodology USDA employed to estimate the level of gross trade damage caused by retaliatory tariffs to U.S. agricultural exports by commodity. Those estimates were used to determine the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payment rates and the value of commodities to be targeted for purchase under the 2019 Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP). The paper also outlines the formulas employed to calculate MFP county rates for non-specialty crops, as well as national MFP rates for specialty crops, hogs, and milk. USDA announced details on those programs on July 25, 2019. For more details about the trade mitigation programs, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>. Rulemaking and related documents, including the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), for trade mitigation programs can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CCC-2019-0003>.

Trade Damage Estimation for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and Purchase Targets for the Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP)

On May 23, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture [announced](#) that USDA would take several actions to assist farmers in response to continued retaliation and trade disruption. President Trump authorized USDA to provide up to \$16 billion in programs, in line with the estimated impacts of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural producers and other trade disruptions. Further details of the 2019 trade mitigation program were [announced](#) on July 25, 2019.

In 2018, USDA developed an estimate of gross trade damages for U.S. commodities affected by retaliatory tariffs to establish commodity payment rates for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and purchase targets for the Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP). On September 13, 2018, USDA provided a detailed accounting of how those gross damage estimates were calculated.¹

For the 2018 and the 2019 trade mitigation programs, USDA defined economic losses due to the trade actions in terms of gross trade damages. Gross trade damages were defined as the total amount of expected export sales lost to the retaliatory partner due to the additional tariffs. This metric provides one assessment of economic loss, and there are other forms of economic injury that could be measured. Gross trade damage contributes to the economic cost to the producer to adjust to the disrupted markets, manage surplus commodities, and expand and develop new markets, consistent with the design of the MFP. Further, export sale losses provide the most direct link to the retaliatory action(s) and is the single estimate that most comprehensively accounts for the full scale of trade impacts. In part due to these reasons, it is often employed in World Trade Organization (WTO) arbitrations assessing the level of nullification or impairment resulting from a measure found to be WTO-inconsistent and is the approach applied here.

For the 2019 program, USDA employed the same methodology to estimate gross trade damages, using the same trade model (Global Simulation Analysis of Industry-Level Trade Policy) documented in 2018. That model simulates the expected reduction in U.S. exports to the retaliatory partner market. Gross trade damages are calculated as the difference in bilateral trade with the tariff and the baseline (without the tariff).

As with the 2018 trade mitigation programs, the gross trade damage estimate is the basis for developing the 2019 MFP payment rates, which are detailed in this paper, as well as FPDP purchase targets. The 2019 programs are designed to aid producers in the disposition of surplus commodities; to aid in the expansion of domestic markets; or to aid in the development of new and additional markets and uses. Those programs are intended for crops or commodities that are negatively impacted by trade actions of foreign governments. Specifically, the 2019 MFP payments may provide producers with an opportunity to adjust to delays in the marketing of their crops and to costs associated with reorienting their sales to new and additional markets.

¹ For details see: https://www.usda.gov/occe/trade/USDA_Trade_Methodology_Report.pdf.

Changes in Retaliatory Tariffs

The gross trade damage estimate for 2019 takes into account changes in retaliatory tariffs since the original damage estimate used for the 2018 trade mitigation programs. There have been five changes to the retaliatory tariffs applied to U.S. agricultural products since the 2018 damages were calculated:

- a) On September 24, 2018, China imposed additional tariffs ranging from 5 to 10 percent on U.S. goods, which were applied to \$3 billion of agricultural products not previously impacted by China's retaliatory tariffs. Given the timing of China's action, these tariffs were not included in the trade damage analysis for the 2018 trade mitigation programs.
- b) On May 17, 2019, Mexico and Canada agreed to lift all retaliatory tariffs related to the U.S.-imposed Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs. These tariffs covered a broad range of agricultural and food products, including U.S. pork and dairy.
- c) On May 21, 2019, Turkey reduced retaliatory tariffs assessed on U.S. products by half in response to changes in U.S.-imposed Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum from Turkey. Turkey's retaliatory tariffs include some U.S. tree nuts and rice.
- d) On June 1, 2019, China increased retaliatory tariffs assessed on the U.S. on almost \$2 billion of agricultural goods by an additional 5 to 15 percent. This new list includes many U.S. horticultural and specialty products.
- e) On June 16, 2019, India imposed retaliatory tariffs ranging from 2 to 25 percent on U.S. apples, rice, almonds, chickpeas, and other commodities. India had announced retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods in July 2018 but delayed implementation until June 2019.

The model commodity coverage was expanded to include the broader range of U.S. agricultural products affected by retaliation, as well as the increase in (China) or implementation of (India) retaliatory tariffs. The model scenarios were also revised to remove the retaliatory tariffs that Canada and Mexico lifted, as well as the reduction in Turkey's tariffs.

Base Year Changes Account for Long-Standing Distortionary Policies and Longer-Term Impacts

For the 2018 trade mitigation programs, USDA employed 2017 trade data as the base year for projecting trade damages. 2017 was used as the 2018 programs' base year because it was the most recent full year of trade data available and reflected trade levels prior to the imposition of retaliatory tariffs starting in April 2018 for some agricultural products.²

For the 2019 trade mitigation programs, USDA employed a longer time-series to estimate gross trade damages, by surveying trends in U.S. bilateral trade over a 10-year period (2009-2018). For some of the commodities affected by tariffs, 2017 was not the most representative base year on which to conduct the trade damage analysis. The 10-year period for determining a basis for the evaluating the tariff allows estimates to account for other contributing variables, such as longstanding trade barriers imposed by

² In April 2018, China was the first trading partner to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agriculture in response to Section 232 tariffs on aluminum and steel. Nearly all retaliatory tariffs – including those imposed by China in response to actions under Section 301 and Section 232, as well as those imposed by the EU, Canada, Mexico, and Turkey in response to actions under Section 232, were in place by July 2018. India was the only country that announced but did not immediately apply retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural products in 2018.

China and other countries that have affected U.S. exports, as well as the longer-term impact of prolonged retaliatory tariffs.³

We included 2018 in this time-series, given that for some commodities, new market access had only just begun prior to the implementation of retaliatory tariffs. For example, in mid-2017, China and the United States agreed to improve market access for U.S. beef exports to China.⁴ U.S. beef exports began to increase in late 2017 through the first half of 2018 before declining and leveling-off. U.S. beef had been banned from China since 2003, and prior to that ban, the United States was the country's largest beef supplier. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that, but for the retaliatory tariffs that China imposed on U.S. beef in July 2018, U.S. beef exports to China would have continued to increase at a similar (if not higher) level as observed in the first half of 2018. Using 2017 as a base year does not fully capture the new market access opportunities for U.S. beef.

Other commodities have faced multi-year market access barriers into China and other countries that have implemented retaliatory tariffs. In recent years, unwarranted regulatory and trade-distorting measures have hindered U.S. corn exports to some of these markets, making the 2017 base year less representative of U.S. export levels.⁵ Moreover, products made from corn, such as distillers dried grains and solubles (DDGS) and ethanol have been adversely impacted by China's earlier decisions to unilaterally increase tariffs (ethanol) and impose anti-dumping and countervailing duties (DDGS).⁶ Other products facing multi-year market access barriers include poultry, rice, and wheat.

2019 MFP Payments and Payment Rates for Non-Specialty Crops

Given the timing of the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) during the crop year, USDA developed a single rate per acre in each county for MFP-eligible non-specialty crops, which include select non-specialty commodities both directly and indirectly affected by the trade dispute, in order to minimize potential distortions.

Payments to each producer are limited to:

- 2018 Farm Service Agency-certified planted acres;
- 2018 Farm Service Agency-certified prevented from planting acres (of non-specialty crops); and
- 2018 expiring Conservation Reserve Program acreage.

The specific commodity rates that form the basis of the county rate are derived from the gross trade damage estimates. Commodity rates are set as the estimated trade damages divided by the average volume of production for 2015-17 reported by NASS.

The county payment rates⁷ were based on historical fixed average area and yields as discussed below. The total potential payment amount for non-specialty crops is the eligible area multiplied by the non-specialty county rate per acre. This total payment amount is subject to limitations further discussed under the "Total MFP Payments" heading, beginning on page 7 of the report.

³ To be clear, the model estimates the impact of the retaliatory tariff(s) on a given commodity.

⁴ On June 12, 2017, USDA announced that it had reached an agreement with Chinese officials on the final details of a protocol to allow the United States to begin exporting beef to China. See <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2017/06/12/us-china-finalize-details-send-us-beef-china>

⁵ See the USTR Foreign Trade Barriers Reports and the USTR Trade Policy Agenda and Annual Reports for more details. The most recent reports can be accessed at <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/reports-and-publications/2019>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ See <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp> for rates by county.

Non-specialty crops commodity rates

Non-specialty crops	Commodity Rate	Units
Soybeans	\$2.05	BU
Cotton	\$0.26	LB
Sorghum	\$1.69	BU
Corn	\$0.14	BU
Wheat	\$0.41	BU
Rice	\$0.63	CWT
Peanuts	\$0.01	LB
Lentils	\$3.99	CWT
Peas	\$0.85	CWT
Alfalfa Hay	\$2.81	TONS
Dried Beans	\$8.22	CWT
Chickpeas	\$1.48	CWT

Example of non-specialty crop county rate calculation

County A has planted an average of 20,000 acres of corn, 10,000 acres of soybeans, and 1,000 acres of barley. The historical average county yield is 180 bu/acre for corn, 60 bu/acre for soybeans, and 50 bu/acre for barley. The commodity rates under the 2019 MFP for corn and soybeans are \$0.14/bu and \$2.05/bu, respectively. Since there are no retaliatory tariffs on U.S. barley, the payment rate for barley is \$0.00/bu.

County A's payment rate is calculated as follows:

- Step 1: For each crop in a county, multiply fixed historical acres, fixed historical yields, and the payment rate per unit for each eligible non-specialty MFP crop
- County A Corn Damage: $20,000 \text{ acres} \times 180 \text{ bu/acre} \times \$0.14/\text{bu} = \$504,000$
 - County A Soybeans Damage: $10,000 \text{ acres} \times 60 \text{ bu/acre} \times \$2.05/\text{bu} = \$1,230,000$
 - County A Barley Damage: $1,000 \text{ acres} \times 50 \text{ bu/acre} \times \$0.00/\text{bu} = \$0$
- Step 2: Sum all calculated values from Step 1
- $\$504,000 + \$1,230,000 + \$0 = \$1,734,000$ in total non-specialty crop damage
- Step 3: Sum the acres across all eligible non-specialty MFP crops
- $20,000 + 10,000 + 1,000 = 31,000$ acres
- Step 4: Calculate the county payment rate per acre by dividing the result of Step 2 by the result of Step 3
- $\$1,734,000/31,000 = \$56/\text{acre}$ non-specialty crop county payment

Acres reported to the Farm Service Agency between 2015-2018 are used to calculate the historical fixed acres for each crop within a county. The 2015-2017 historical fixed county yield is calculated using the following cascade:

1. RMA county yield,
2. NASS county yield, if the RMA county yield is unavailable,
3. RMA T-yield, if the both the RMA county yield and NASS county yield are unavailable,
4. NASS state yield, if (1)-(3) are unavailable, and
5. NASS national yield, if (1)-(4) are unavailable.

Prevent Plant

2019 planting was characterized by substantial rainfall and cool weather that delayed planting of crops across the United States. Producers prevented from planting a 2019 non-specialty crop, but who planted a CCC-approved cover crop, with the potential to be harvested, qualify for a \$15 per acre payment.⁸

Cups and Caps

The county payment rates per acre are cupped and capped at \$15 per acre and \$150 per acre, respectively.

2019 MFP Payments and Payment Rates for Hogs and Milk

Hogs: 2019 MFP payments for hog producers are based on live hog inventory on a day selected by the applicant between April 1, 2019 and May 15, 2019. Eligibility for 2019 MFP payments is again based upon independent ownership of the hogs; persons/legal entities that are contracted to grow hogs are not eligible for 2019 MFP.

Calculate the per unit payment rate for hogs:

- Step 1: Calculate the gross trade damage estimate
- Step 2: Subtract the FPDP purchase amount from the gross trade damage estimate to calculate the portion not covered by FPDP
- Step 3: Divide the value from Step 2 by the number of hogs reported in the 2019 March inventory report to calculate the MFP payment rate per hog

Milk: 2019 MFP payments for dairy producers are based on historical production, the same as what was reported for participation in the USDA Dairy Margin Coverage Program or its predecessor, the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. The ownership share for milk will be as reported to FSA for the aforementioned programs for dairy operations that were in business as of June 1, 2019. Dairy operations that were not in business as of June 1, 2019, are ineligible for MFP.

Calculate the per unit payment rate for milk:

- Step 1: Calculate the gross trade damage estimate
- Step 2: Subtract the FPDP purchase amount from the gross trade damage estimate to calculate the portion not covered by FPDP
- Step 3: Divide the value from Step 2 by 2017 MPP production to get the MFP payment rate per cwt of milk

Hog and Milk MFP Rates

Product	Trade Damage estimate minus FPDP2 targeted purchase amount	Units	Production	MFP rate
	(in million \$)	units	(in million units)	\$/units
Hogs	\$831	head	74	\$11
Dairy	\$354	cwt	1,761	\$0.20

⁸ <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/07/25/usda-announces-details-support-package-farmers>. USDA is not legally authorized to make Market Facilitation Program payments to producers for acreage that is not planted. However, cover crops planted with the purpose of providing animal feed or other marketing purpose are eligible for a minimum payment of \$15 per acre.

2019 MFP Payments and Payment Rates for Specialty Crops

Similar to the 2018 MFP, producers of an expanded list of specialty crops will be eligible for program payments. 2019 MFP payments for specialty crops are based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants. For specialty fruits and ginseng, the payment rate is multiplied by the average yields listed on <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>.

*Calculate the payment rate for **specialty tree nuts**:*

- Step 1: Calculate and sum all gross trade damage estimates for all specialty tree nuts
- Step 2: Sum bearing acres for all eligible tree nuts using NASS Census data for 2017
- Step 3: Divide total gross trade damages from Step 1 by total acres from Step 2 to get the national tree nut rate (\$/acre)

*Calculate the payment rate for **specialty fruits**:*

- Step 1: For each specialty fruit, calculate the gross trade damage estimate
- Step 2: Calculate total production of the fruit crop using 2017 Census acreage and RMA yields
- Step 3: Divide the trade damage estimate from Step 1 by average production from Step 2 to get the per unit payment rate (\$/lb)

*Calculate the payment rate for **ginseng**:*

- Step 1: Calculate the gross trade damage estimate
- Step 2: Calculate estimated ginseng production using 2017 Census data on ginseng acreage and USDA estimate of average yields using industry and academic sources
- Step 3: Divide the trade damage estimate from Step 1 by estimated production from Step 2 to get the per unit payment rate (\$/lb)

Specialty Crop MFP Rates

Specialty Products	Trade Damage Estimate	MFP Rates
	<i>(in million \$)</i>	
Tree Nuts*	\$318	\$146/acre
Sweet Cherries (fresh)	\$111	\$0.17/lb
Grapes (fresh)	\$70	\$0.03/lb
Cranberries	\$28	\$0.03/lb
Ginseng	\$6	\$2.85/lb

*Pistachios, almonds, walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, and macadamia nuts

Total MFP Payments

The total payments to producers are subject to payment limitations, AGI eligibility criteria, and adjustments to the payment structure.

2019 MFP payments will be provided in up to 3 installments. The first payment will be guaranteed, and is the higher of 50 percent of the total calculated payment or \$15 per acre. If CCC determines that a second payment is warranted, it will be up to 75 percent of the total calculated payment less the amount received in the first payment and the second payment period will begin in November 2019. If CCC determines

that a final payment is warranted, it will be for the remaining amount of the total calculated payment, unless otherwise adjusted by CCC, and the last payment period will begin in January 2020.

For 2019 MFP payments, there will be 3 separate payment limitations for each person or legal entity⁹:

1. \$250,000 for eligible non-specialty crops;
2. \$250,000 for eligible specialty crops; and
3. \$250,000 for hogs and milk.
4. No person or legal entity can receive more than \$500,000 under 2019 MFP.

Lastly, if the average adjusted gross income of a person or legal entity is greater than \$900,000, the person or entity is not eligible to receive a MFP payment unless at least 75 percent of the adjusted gross income of the person or entity is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities. The relevant years used to calculate average AGI are the 3 consecutive tax years immediately preceding the year before the payment year, which will be the crop year, or the marketing year for livestock or dairy. For example, for 2019 the relevant years to calculate AGI are the 2015, 2016 and 2017 tax years.

For more information on the MFP program, please go to <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>. Rulemaking and related documents, including the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), for trade mitigation programs can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CCC-2019-0003>.

⁹ This excludes a joint venture or general partnership, as defined and determined under 7 CFR part 1400.

From: Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Sent: 23 Jul 2019 23:02:32 +0000
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Soybean Briefing
Attachments: NortheyBriefer_SoybeanAssociations07-24-19.docx

Mr. Under Secretary,

Attached is your briefing for the IA/MO Soybean Associations and the ASA Board Meeting.

Best,



Andrew Fisher

Policy Advisor

Office of the Under Secretary for FPAC

United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202-692-5298

Cell: 202-568-9729

Briefing Paper for Under Secretary Bill Northey

Event(s): Iowa and Missouri Soybean Associations

Date: Wednesday, July 24

Topics

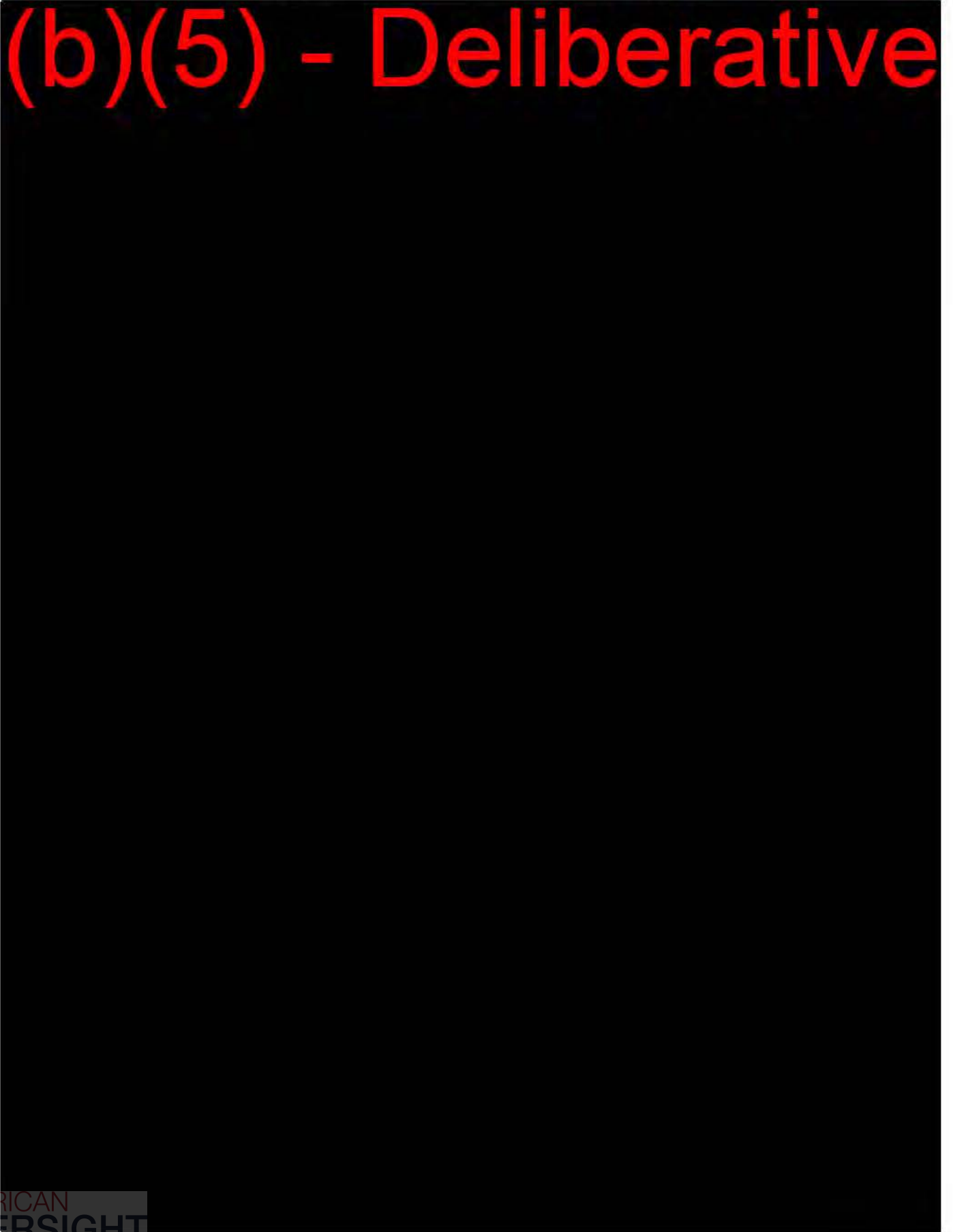
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Additional Information

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Talking Points for Under Secretary Bill Northey

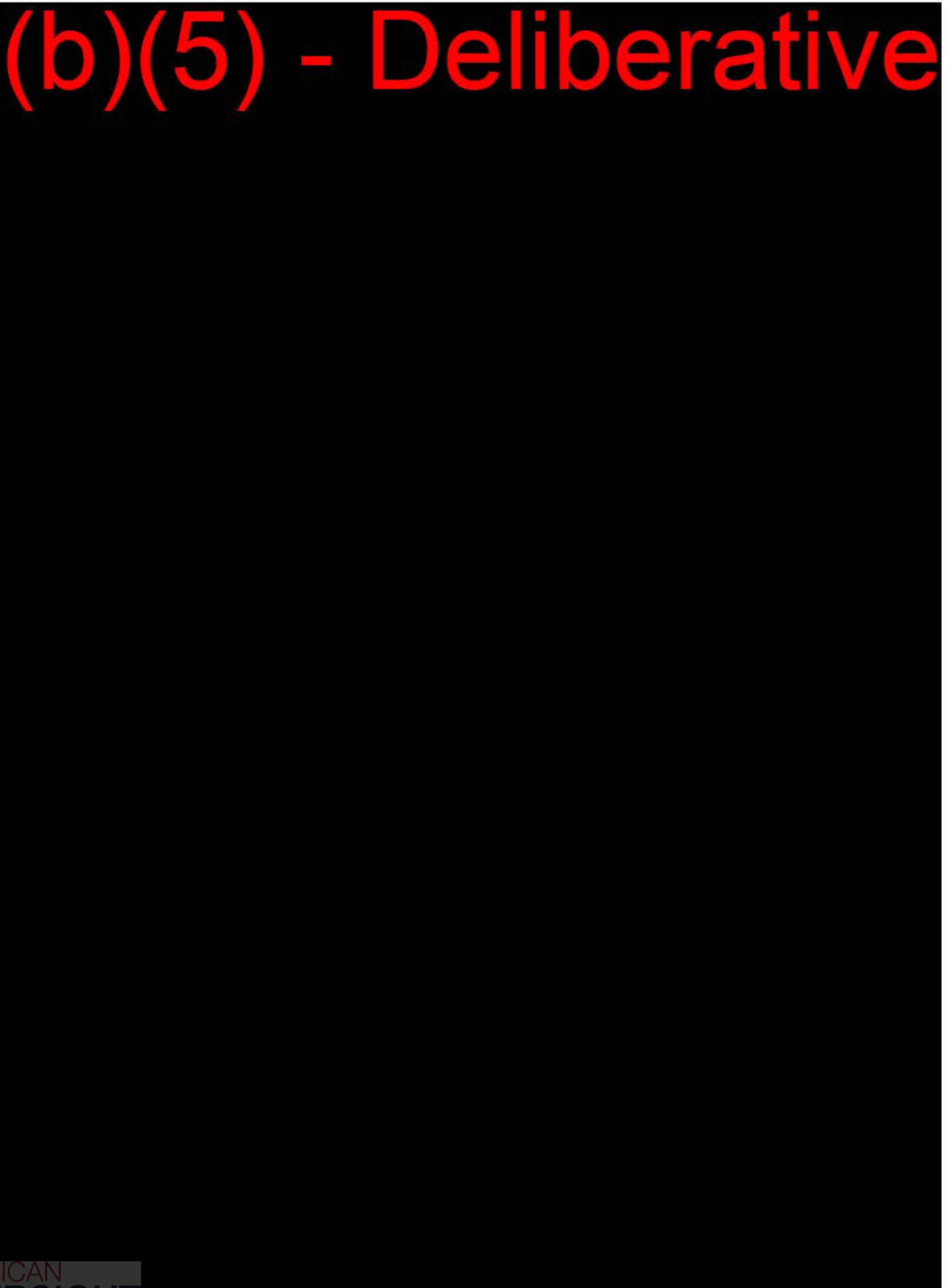
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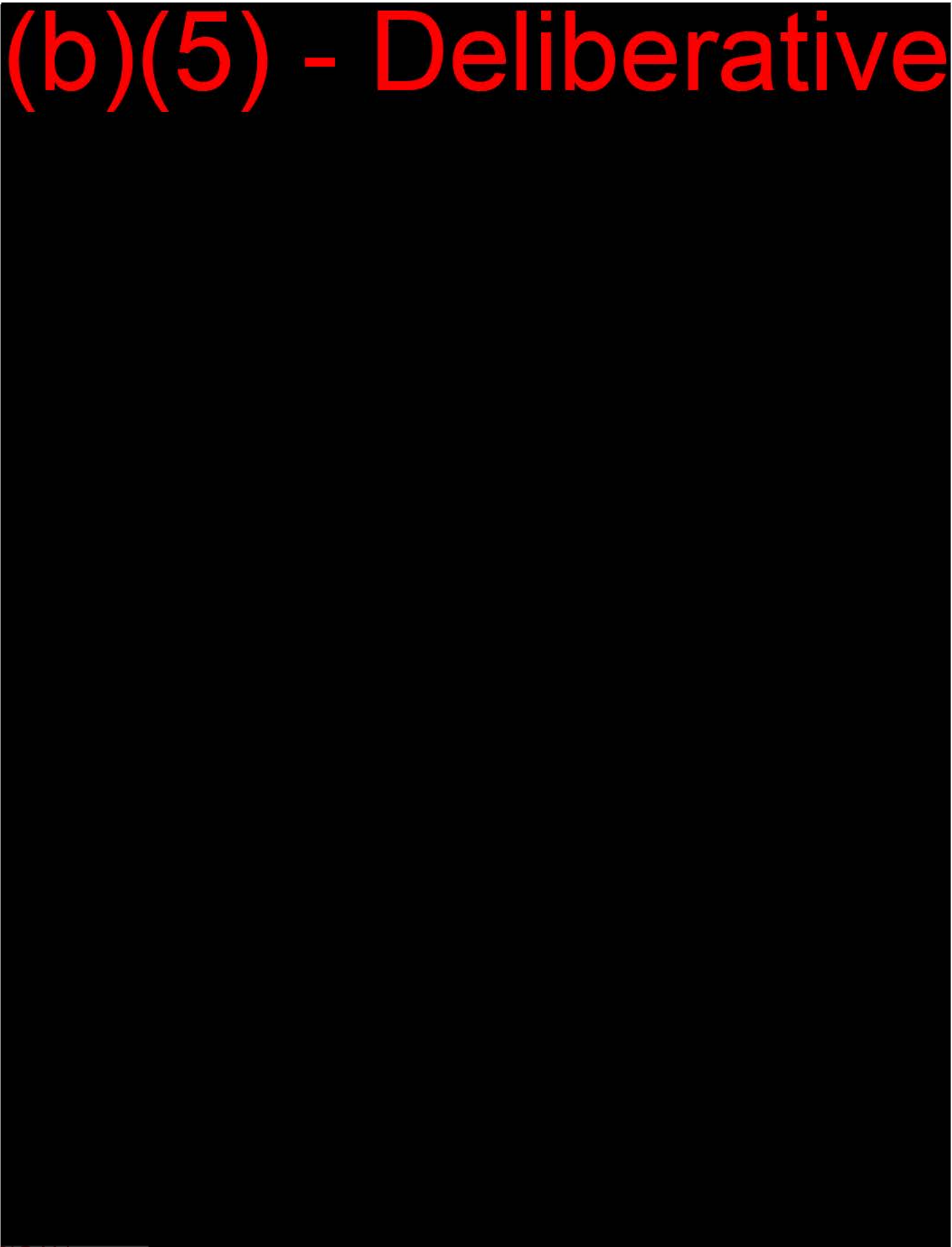
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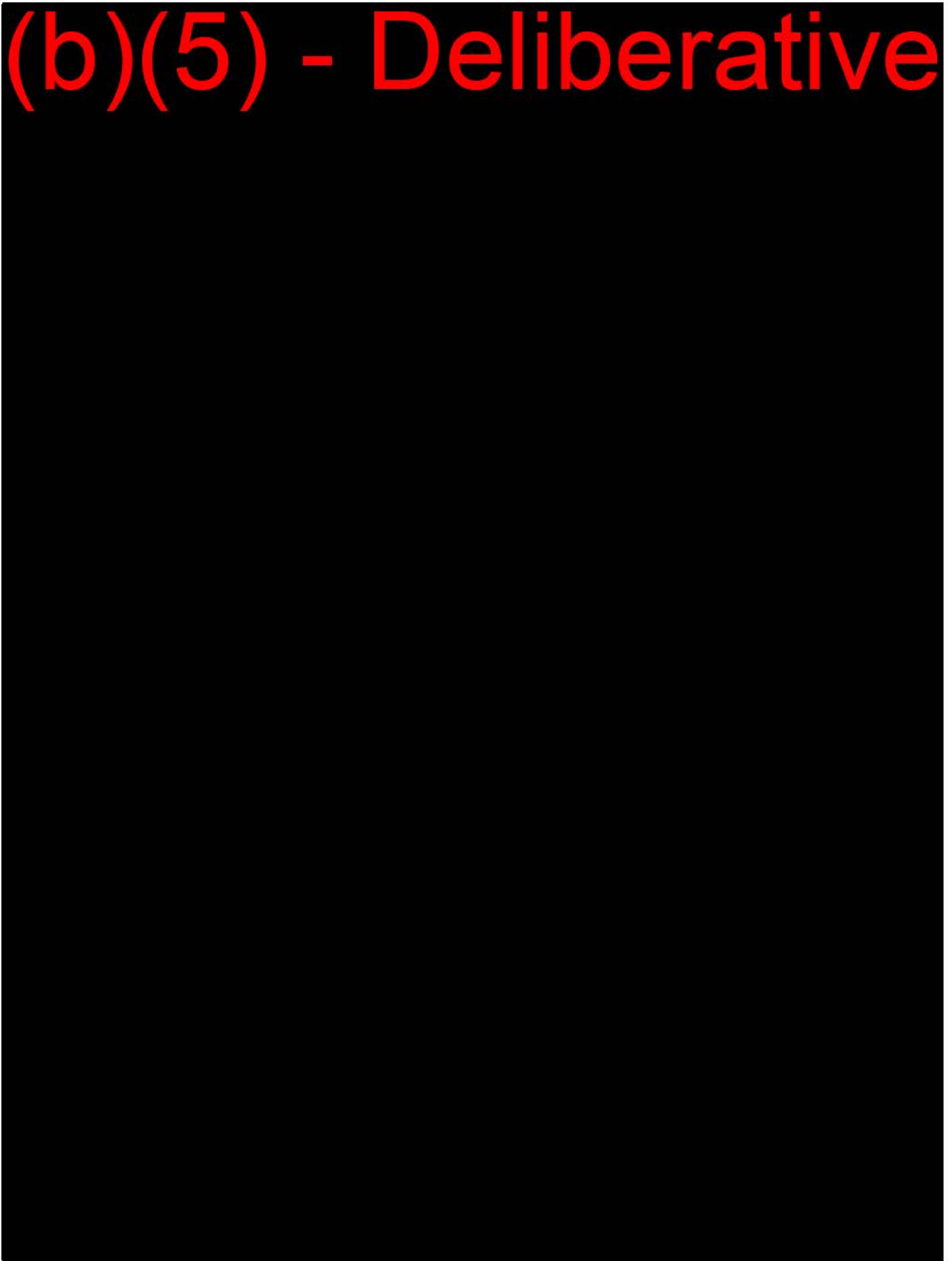
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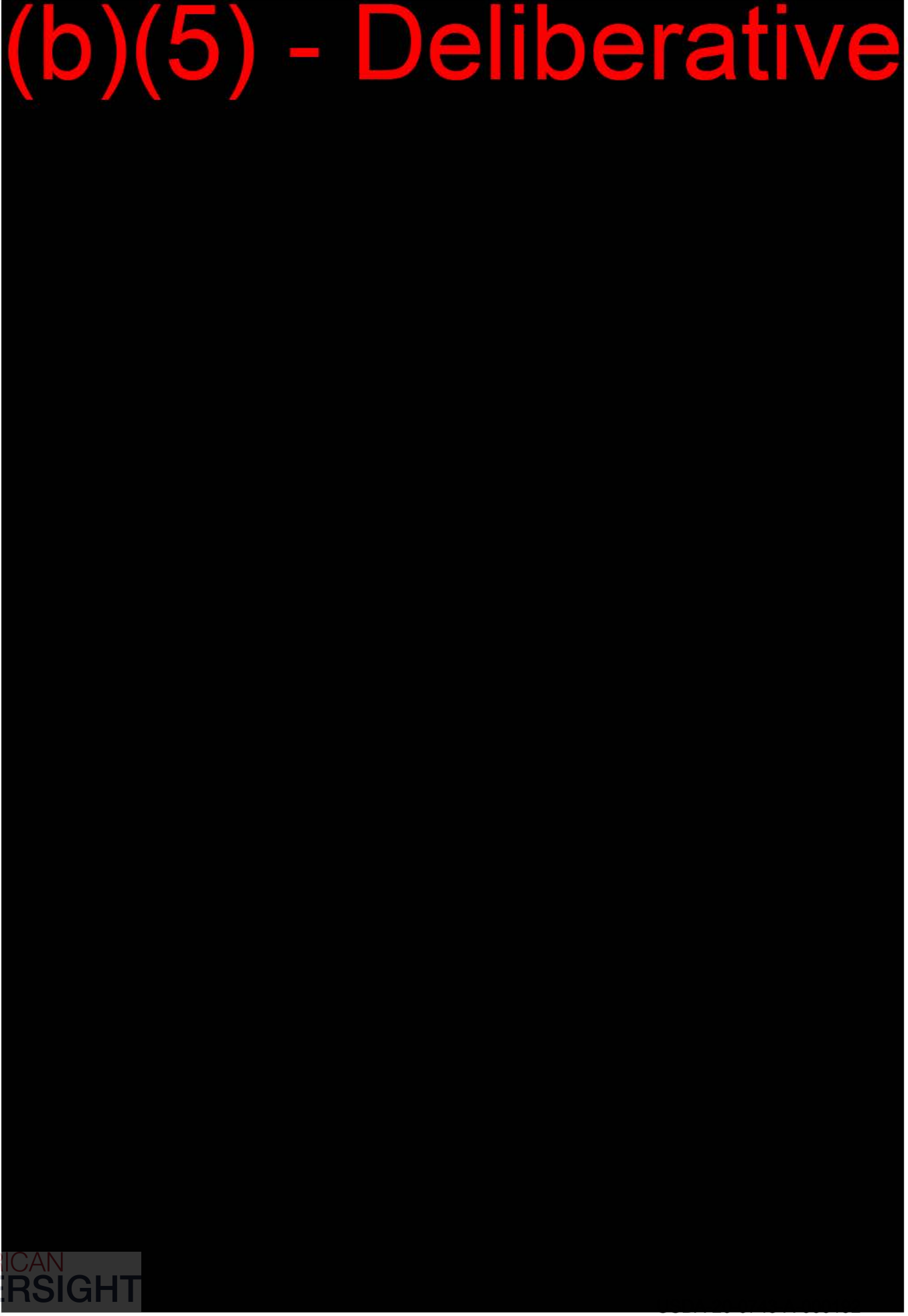
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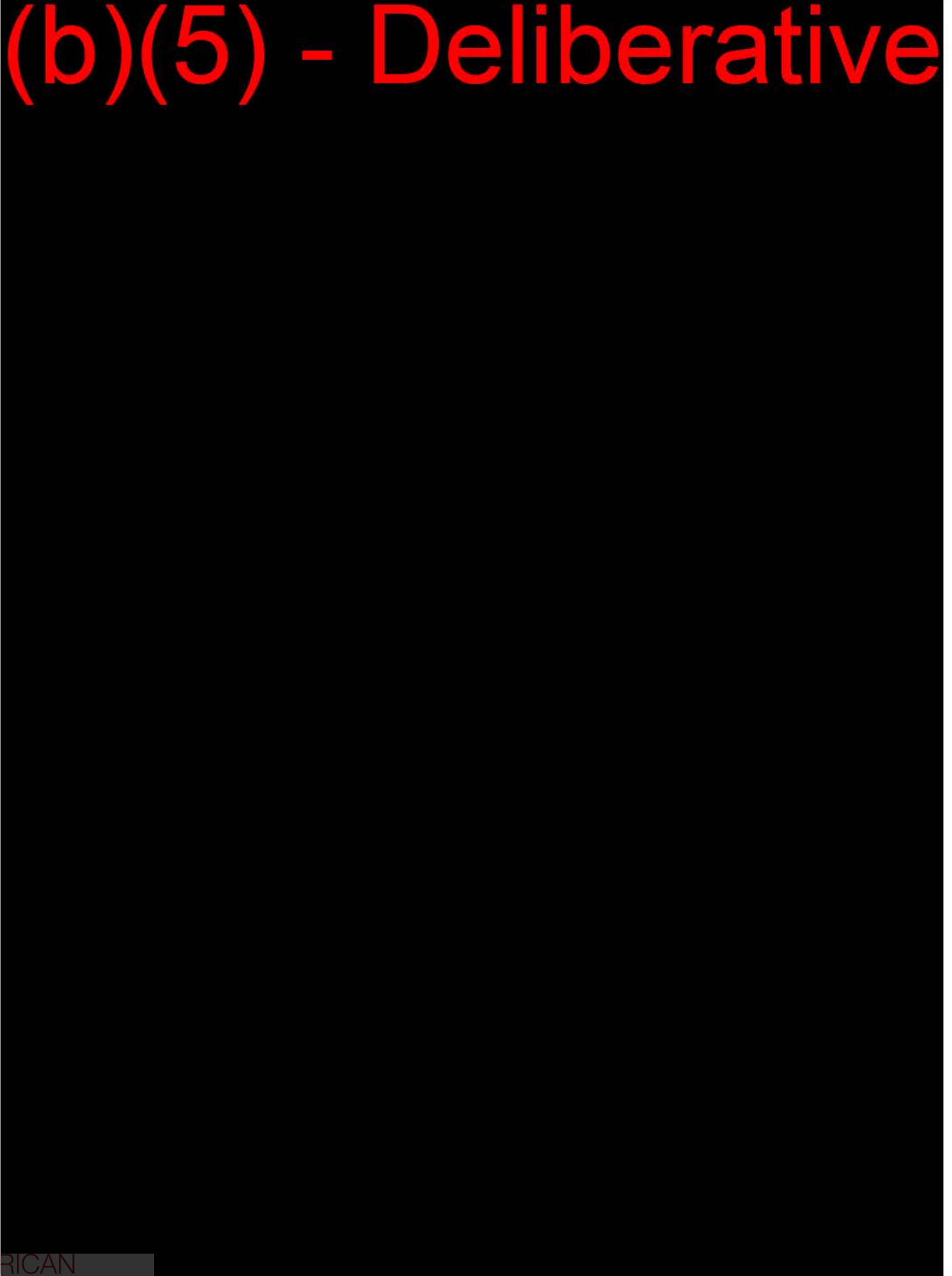
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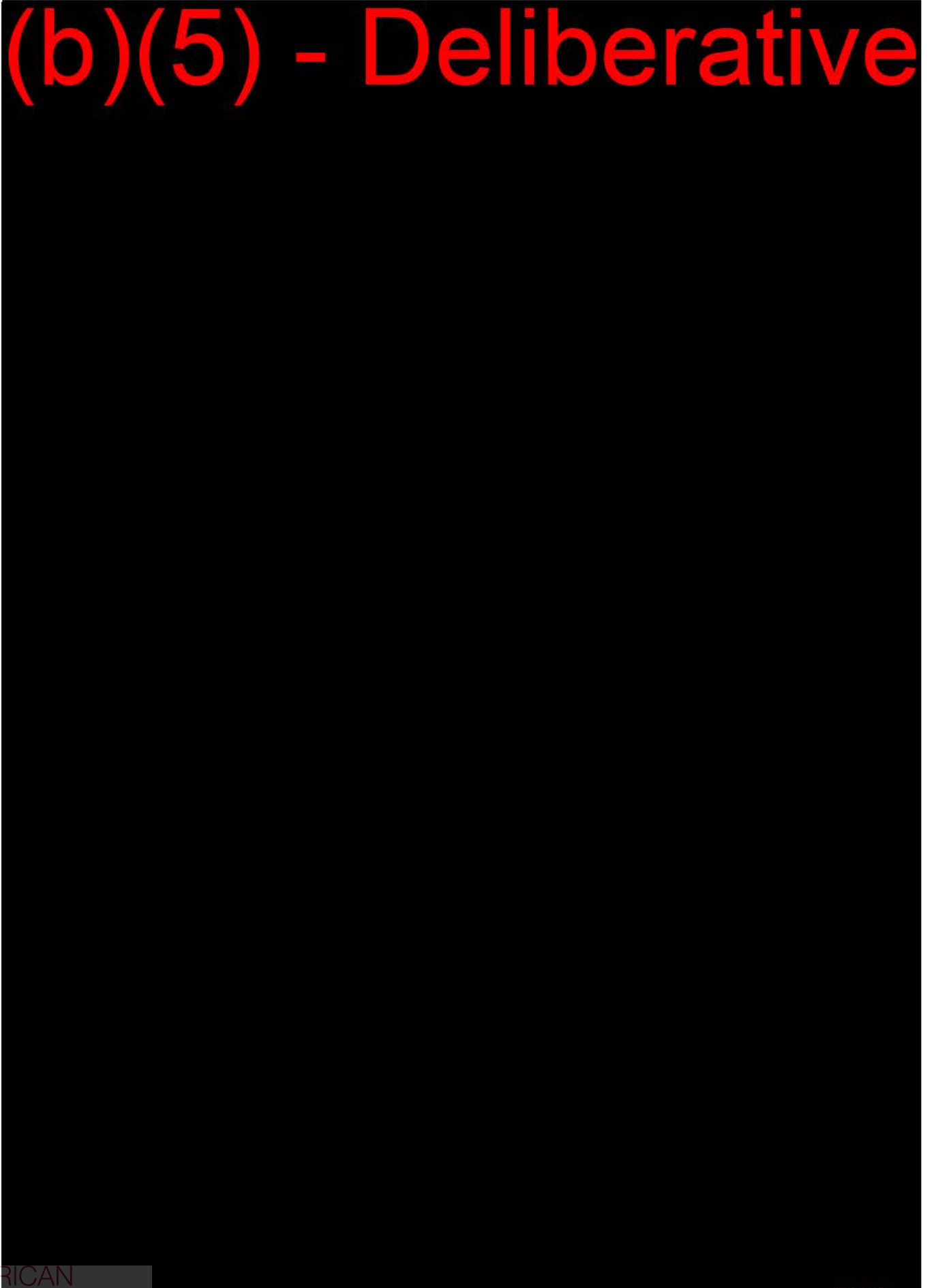
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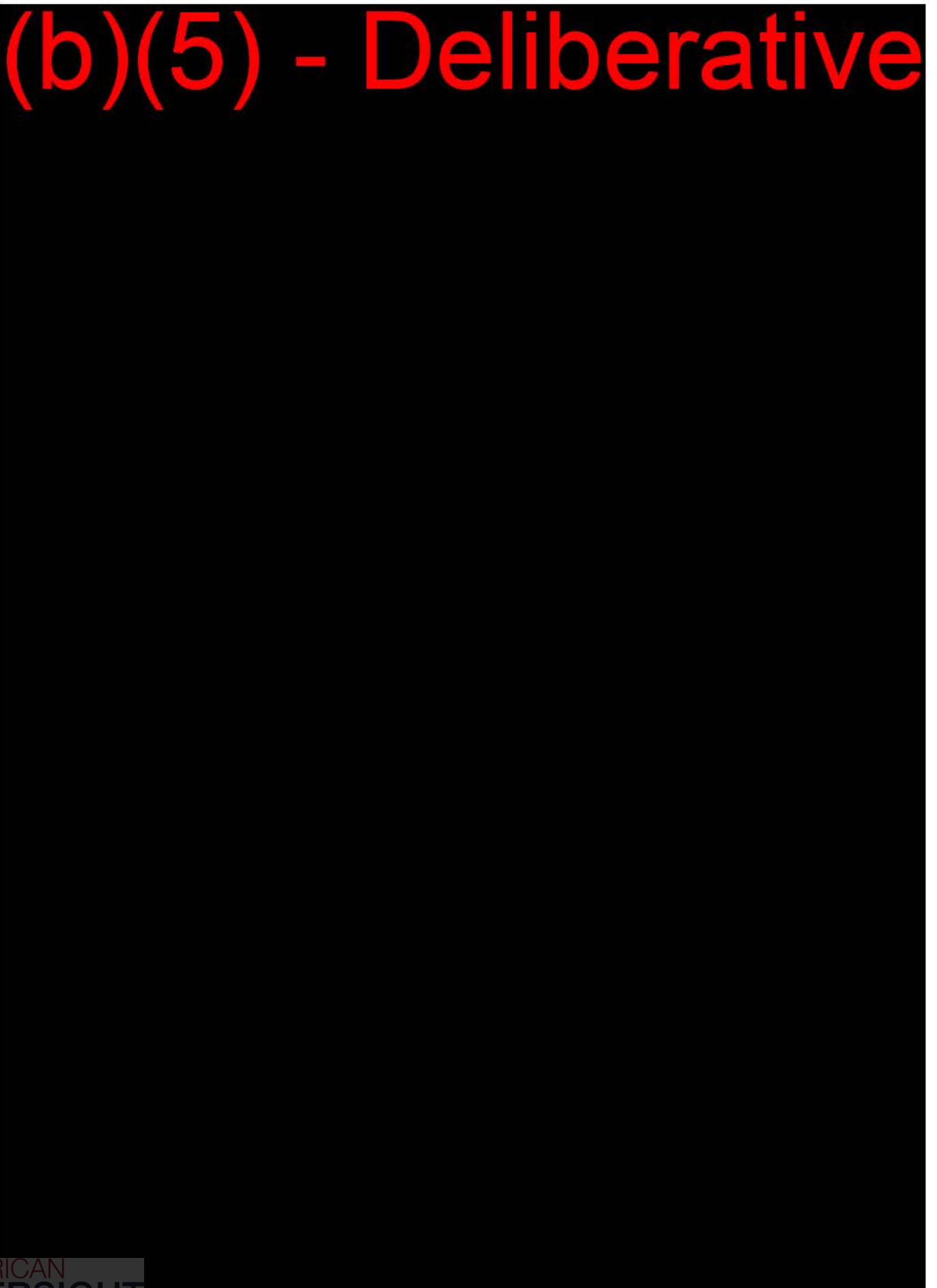
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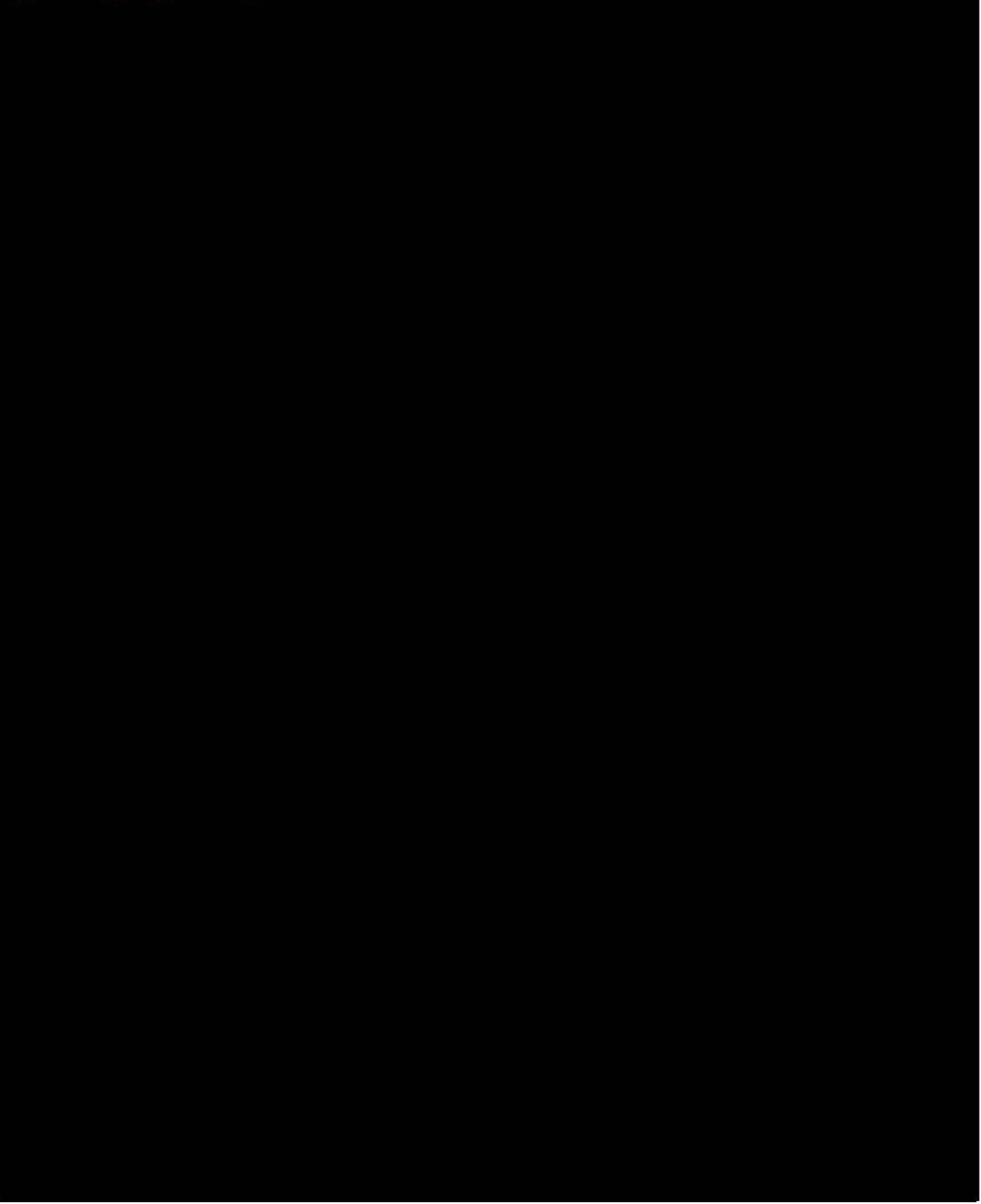
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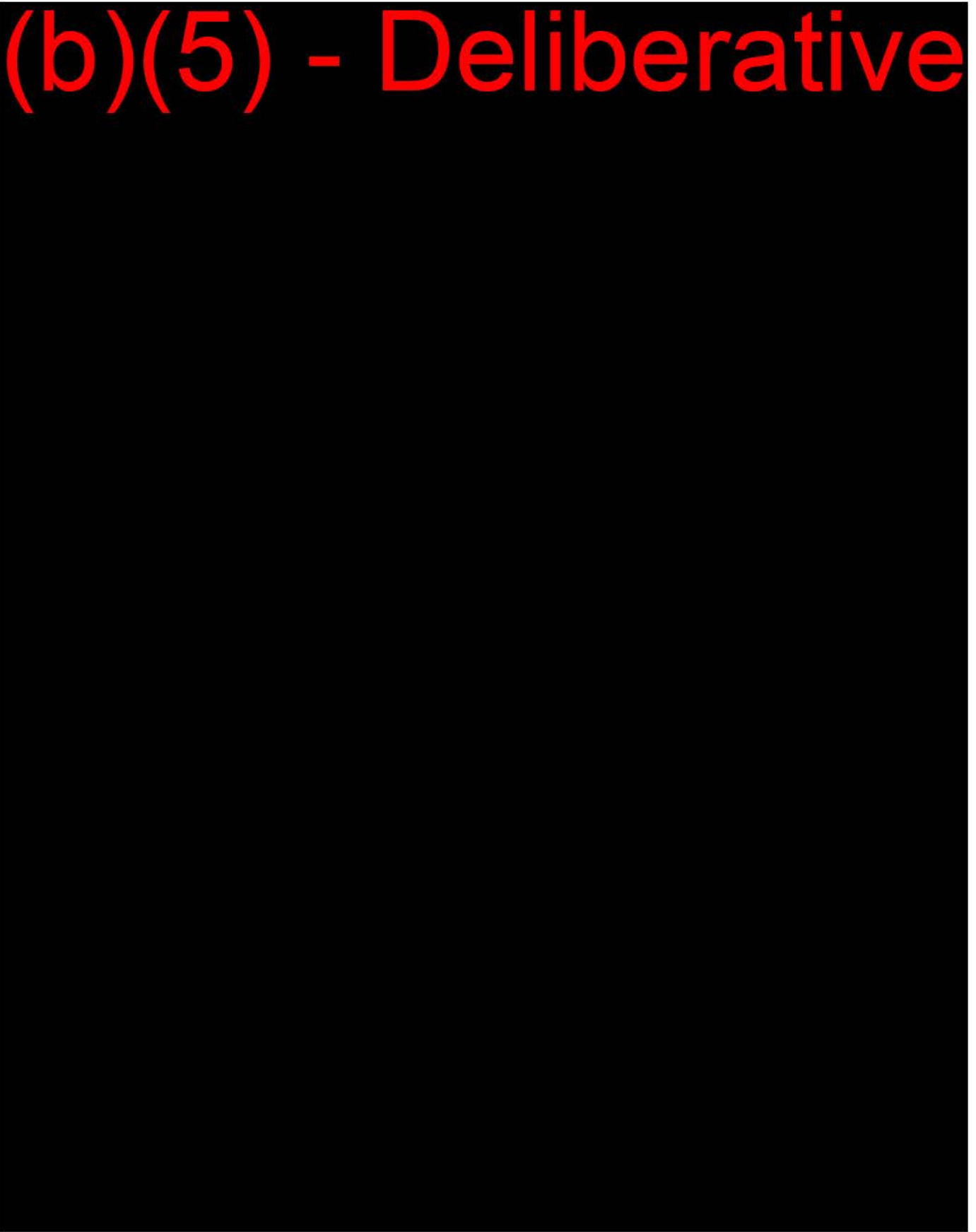
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(b)(5) - Deliberative



From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC
Sent: 14 Aug 2018 21:12:17 +0000
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package
Attachments: MO Republican Letter to USDA on Trade Relief Package 8.14.18.pdf, ATT00001.htm

More FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ruddy, Jack" <(b) (6)@mail.house.gov>
Date: August 14, 2018 at 1:48:08 PM PDT
To: "'Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov'" <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>, "'andrew.fisher@osec.usda.gov'" <andrew.fisher@osec.usda.gov>
Cc: "Christensen, Nick" <Nick.Christensen@mail.house.gov>, "Tvrdy, Joe" <Joe.Tvrdy@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

Peter and Andrew,

Please find the attached letter detailing the Missouri Republican Delegation's concerns with the proposed structure of the direct payments in the Administration's trade assistance package for farmers affected by foreign tariffs. We feel strongly that the state would be severely disadvantage given the ongoing drought and that a calculation based on historical yields would be more equitable for our constituents.

Let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further. We stand ready to work with USDA to ensure this package is effective in providing the relief the Administration intended for our constituents.

Best,

Jack Ruddy
 Legislative Director
 The Office of Congressman Sam Graves (MO-6)
 1135 Longworth House Office Building
 Phone: (202) 225-7041
 Email: (b) (6)@mail.house.gov

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Perdue:

We write to you regarding the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recently announced \$12 billion Trade Assistance Package which is intended provide relief to farmers due to uncertainty in international markets. While farmers appreciate the Administration offering short term relief from foreign tariffs aimed at U.S. Agriculture, we want to make you aware of potential issues that could negatively impact the effects of these programs for the farmers in the State of Missouri.

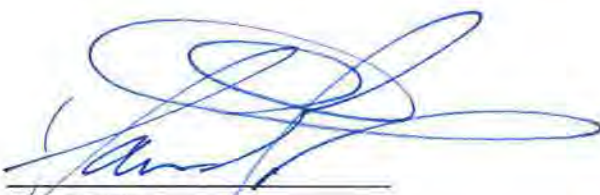
As you may know, over 30 percent of Missouri is experiencing severe drought and expecting well below average yields. Corn farmers in Northern and Southwestern Missouri are expecting their yields to be nearly a third of their normal years. In some counties, soybean farmers are reporting that they expect a total crop loss due to lack of rain. Farmers in Missouri are trying to work through the current drought on top of facing five-year lows in commodity prices and rising input costs.

We welcome the Trade Assistance Package. However, it is our understanding that the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), which will provide much needed relief in the form of payments to producers, will be calculated using 2018 yield data rather than historical yield data. As previously stated, farmers in Missouri are already experiencing below average yields for reasons not related to market uncertainty. We believe using 2018 yield data to calculate MFP payments will put Missouri farmers at a disadvantage and ultimately result in limited financial relief compared to other states not facing similar weather conditions.

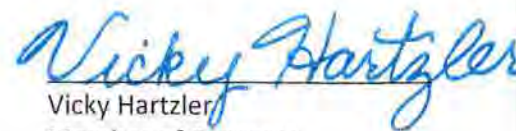
As members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, we urge you to use historical yields for drought-affected farmers instead of simply 2018 data. We believe that using historical yield data would take into account the dire drought conditions farmers are currently facing in many counties in Missouri.

We appreciate your attention to this very important matter and thank you for your commitment to rural America. We look forward to working with you as you continue to craft the Trade Assistance Package which will provide relief for Missouri farmers and farmers across the United States. Please let us know if you require any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

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USDA-20-0743-A-000199



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: 16 Jul 2019 00:30:10 +0000
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fisher, Andrew D - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Talking Points for NCIS Video Call
Attachments: NortheyBriefer_NCIS_7-15-19.docx

Mr. Under Secretary,

Attached are talking points for your video conference tomorrow with NCIS.

Dave

From: "Fritscher, Justin - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC" <justin.fritscher@usda.gov>
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019 at 6:16:00 PM
To: "Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC" <David.Warner@usda.gov>
Cc: "Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC" <kaveh.sadeghzadeh@usda.gov>, "Taylor, Kathryn - RMA, Valdosta, GA" <kathryn.taylor@usda.gov>, "Carlson, Brenda - FPAC-BC, College Station, TX" <brenda.carlson@usda.gov>
Subject: Talking Points for NCIS Video Call

Hi Dave,

Attached are draft talking points for the Under Secretary's video call with NCIS. Please let us know of any questions/ comments.

A big thanks to Kathy who helped me get this together!

justin

Justin Fritscher
 Acting Public Affairs Chief
 Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
 U.S. Department of Agriculture

o: 6116-S

d: 202.720.5776

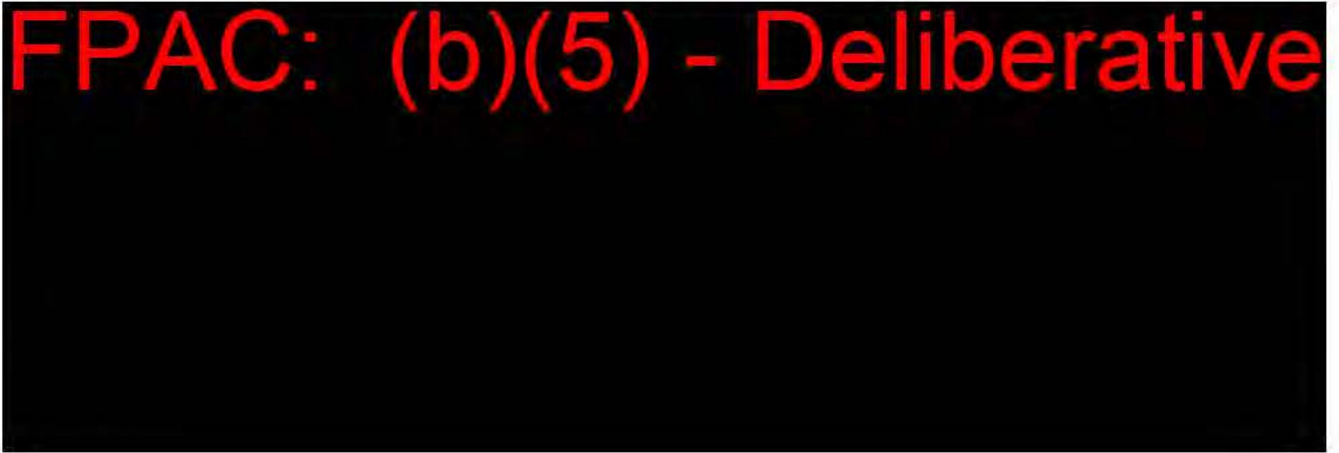
c: (b) (6)

Briefing Paper for Under Secretary Bill Northey

Event(s): National Crop Insurance Services video conference

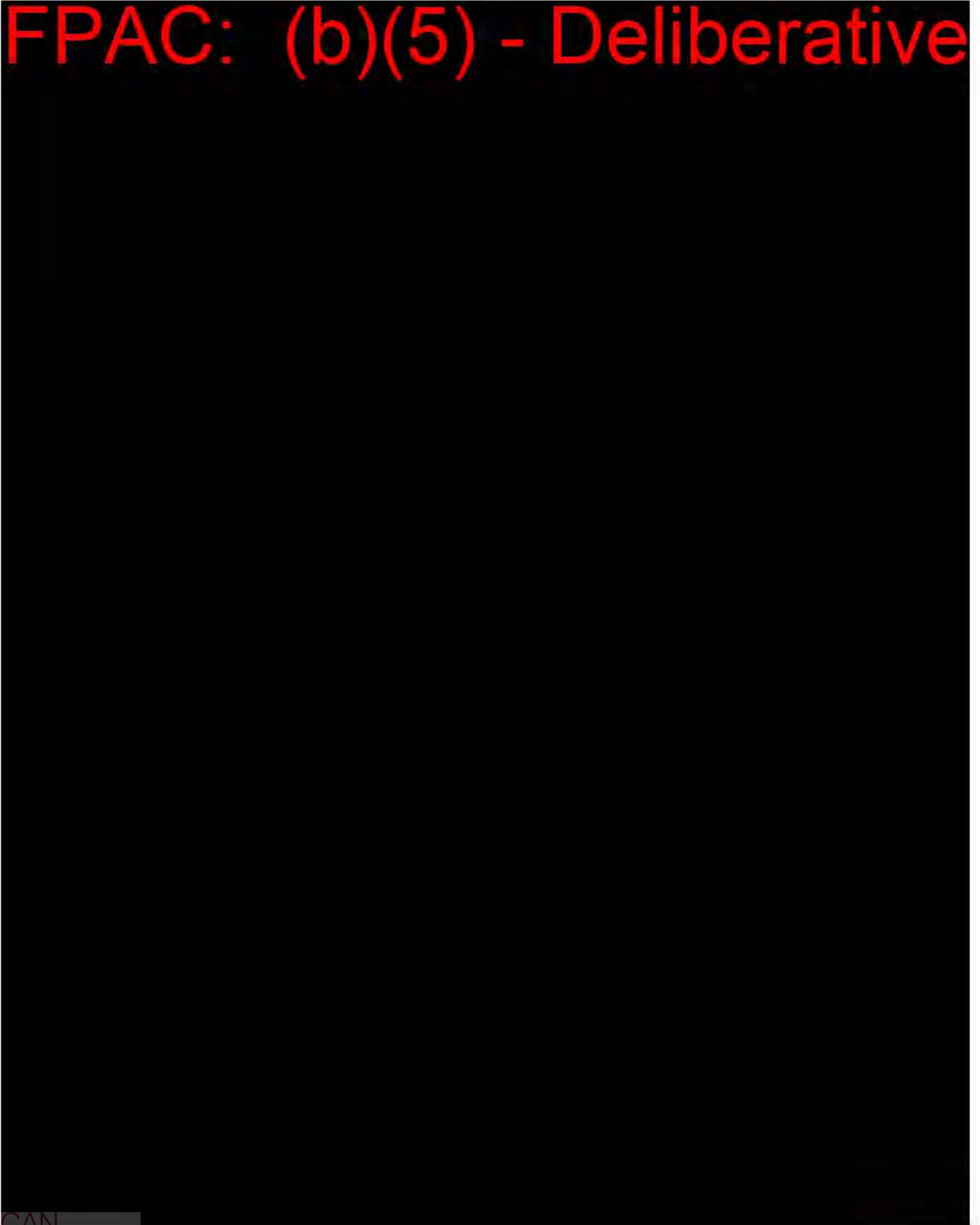
Date: Tuesday, July 16

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

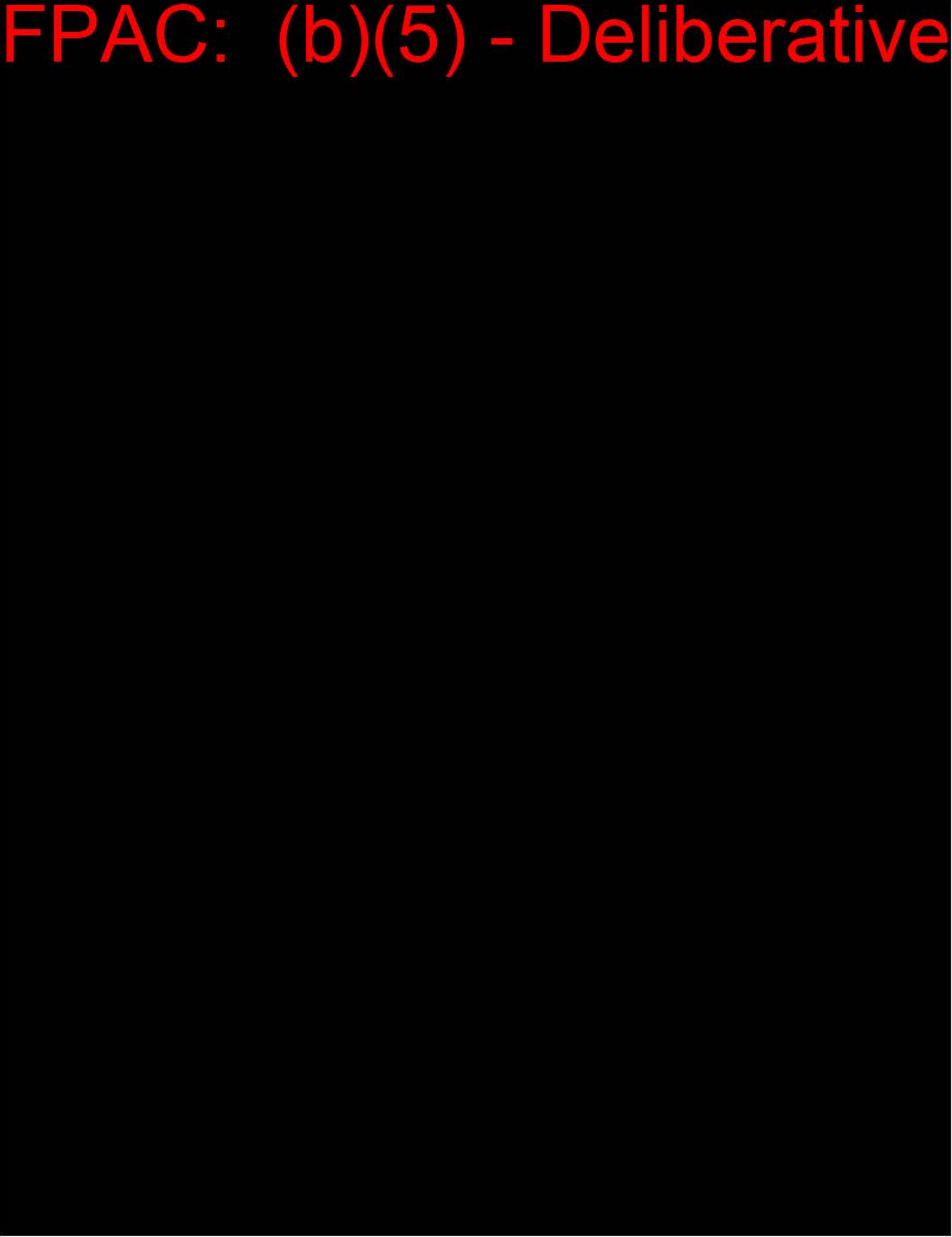


Talking Points for Under Secretary Bill Northey

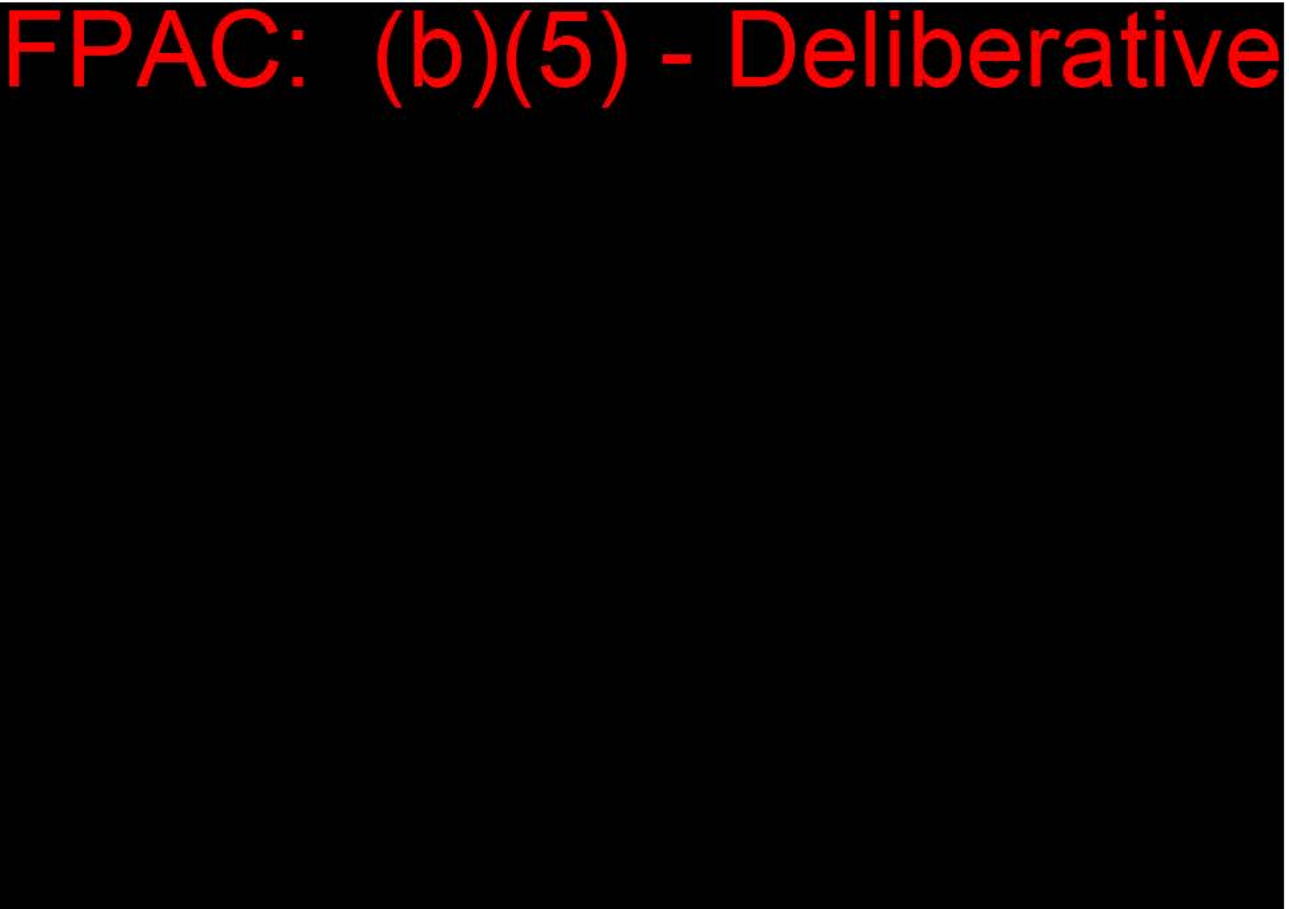
FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative



From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 24 May 2019 18:15:36 +0000
To: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: MFP on Farmers.gov

Michawn and I are good to go on this.

Jamie

From: Warner, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Cc: Sadeghzadeh, Kaveh - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <kaveh.sadeghzadeh@usda.gov>
Subject: MFP on Farmers.gov

We need to **FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative** Below is the suggested copy we will put at the top of the page, with a link to the USDA press release. The copy for MFP1 will remain since producers have until May 31 to certify production for the first MFP. Please let us know as soon as possible if this is okay or if you have concerns, edits, changes, etc.

FPAC: (b)(5) - Deliberative

Thanks,

Dave Warner

Director, External Affairs
 Farm Production and Conservation
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Room 4082
 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20250
 Office: 202-720-7809

Email: David.Warner@usda.gov

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 16 Aug 2018 00:29:22 +0000
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

As an FYI, [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative
 [REDACTED] (b)(5) - Deliberative

Jamie

From: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jamie.CloverAdams@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

Thanks Peter.
 I'm sure I will hear of it in Missouri on Thursday.
 I appreciate seeing the letter.

From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@osec.usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jamie.CloverAdams@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

More FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ruddy, Jack" [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>
Date: August 14, 2018 at 1:48:08 PM PDT
To: "'Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov'" <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>, "'andrew.fisher@osec.usda.gov'" <andrew.fisher@osec.usda.gov>
Cc: "Christensen, Nick" <Nick.Christensen@mail.house.gov>, "Tvrdy, Joe" <Joe.Tvrdy@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Missouri Republican Delegation Letter on Trade Assistance Package

Peter and Andrew,

Please find the attached letter detailing the Missouri Republican Delegation's concerns with the proposed structure of the direct payments in the Administration's trade assistance package for farmers affected by foreign tariffs. We feel strongly that the state would be severely disadvantaged given the ongoing drought and that a calculation based on historical yields would be more equitable for our constituents.

Let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further. We stand ready to work with USDA to ensure this package is effective in providing the relief the Administration intended for our constituents.

Best,

Jack Ruddy
Legislative Director
The Office of Congressman Sam Graves (MO-6)
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-7041
Email: (b)(7) - Deliberative [@mail.house.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@mail.house.gov)

From: Osterlind, Anna - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 5 Jun 2019 13:56:03 +0000
To: Rodgers, Marshall J. EOP/OMB
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: 6/11 Trade Hearing
Attachments: 06112019 DRAFT TFAA Testimony for OMB Clearance.docx

Hi Marshall,

Attachment withheld under (b)(5) Deliberative exemption (5 pp.)

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

I will be out of the office starting today, so I've CC'd Noah Jackson who can help coordinate any edits.
 Thanks, Marshall.

--
 Anna Osterlind
 Office of Congressional Relations
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 202-650-7942

From: Rodgers, Marshall J. EOP/OMB (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 4:07 PM
To: Osterlind, Anna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 6/11 Trade Hearing

Thanks for the heads up. Your timeline sounds good.

From: Osterlind, Anna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Rodgers, Marshall J. EOP/OMB (b) (6)
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: 6/11 Trade Hearing

Hi Marshall –

I wanted to let you know that U/S McKinney will be testifying before the House Ag Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Ag on Tuesday, June 11th. The hearing will be a general trade update (b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

(b)(5) - Deliberative

The other federal witness is Gregg Doud.

I'll be traveling next week, so I'm CCing Noah Jackson from our team who will help coordinate clearance on our end while I'm out.

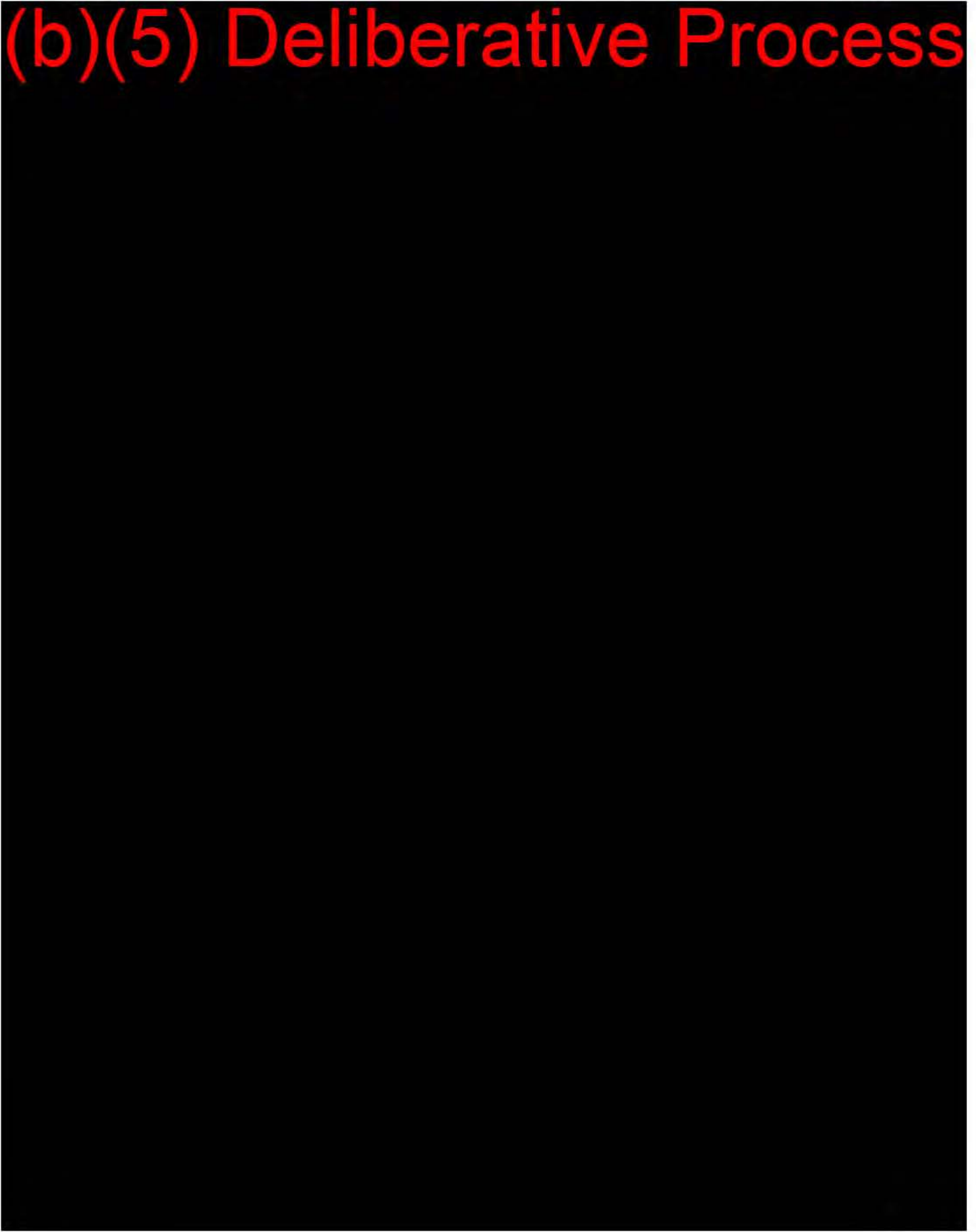


Anna Osterlind

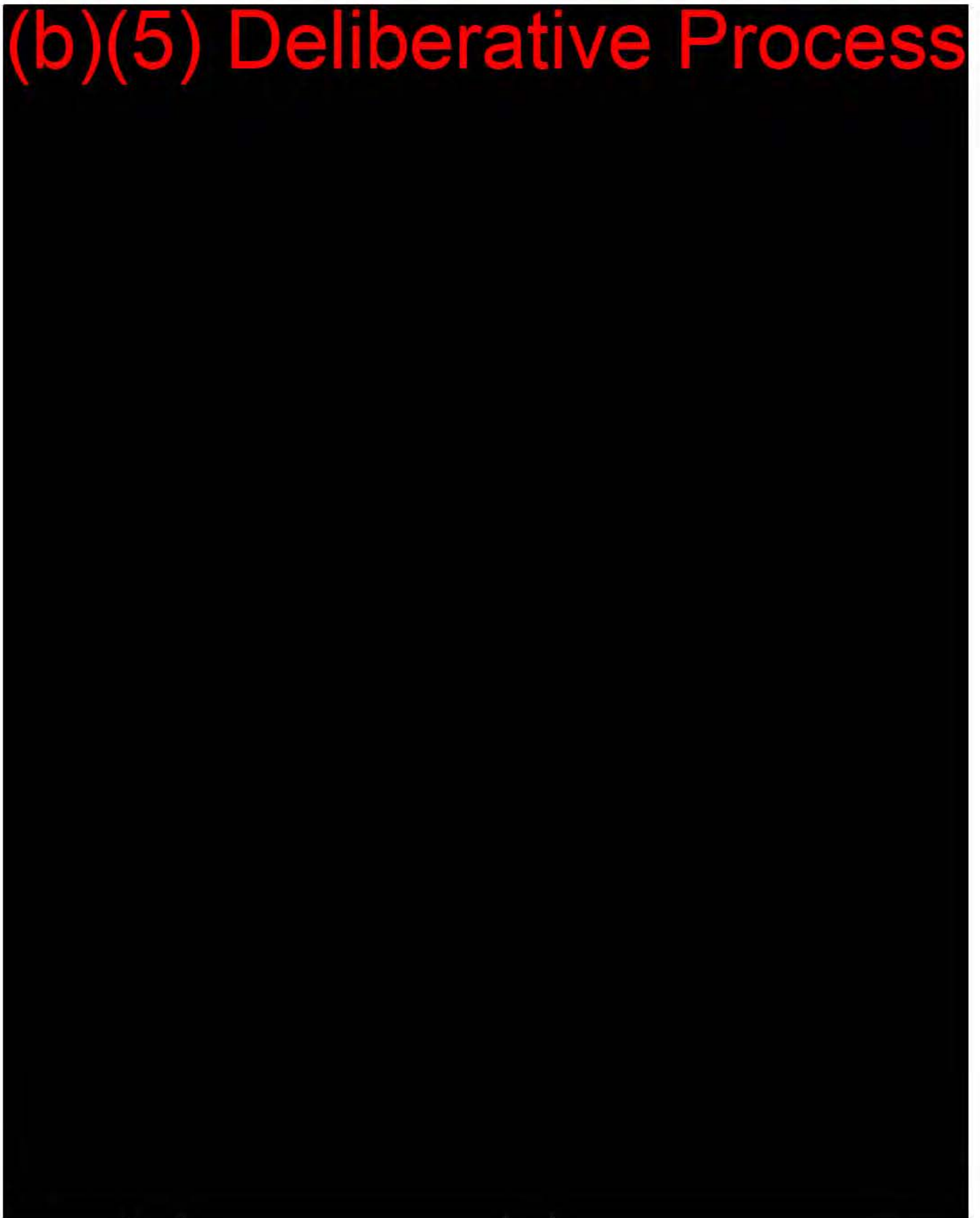
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
202.650.7942
anna.osterlind@usda.gov

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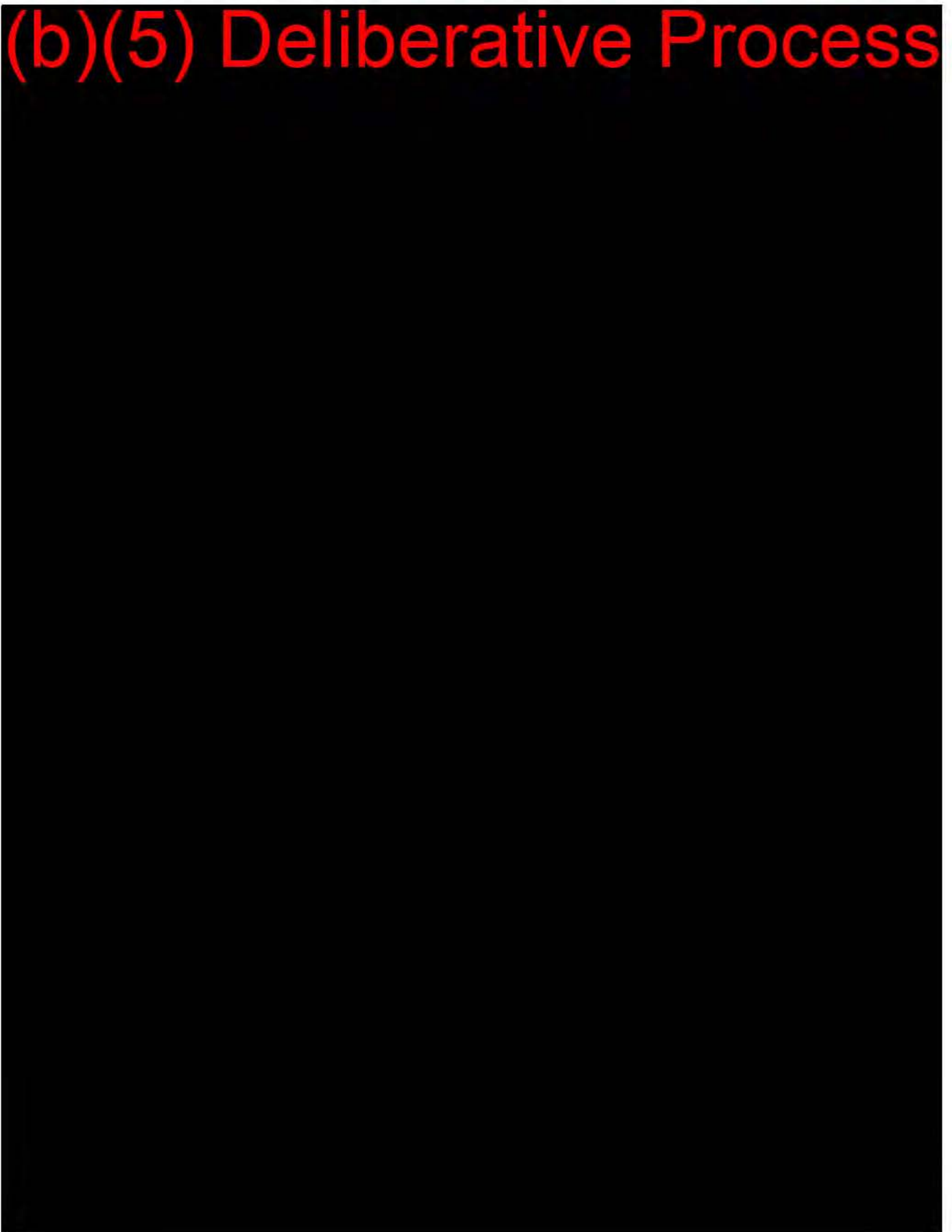
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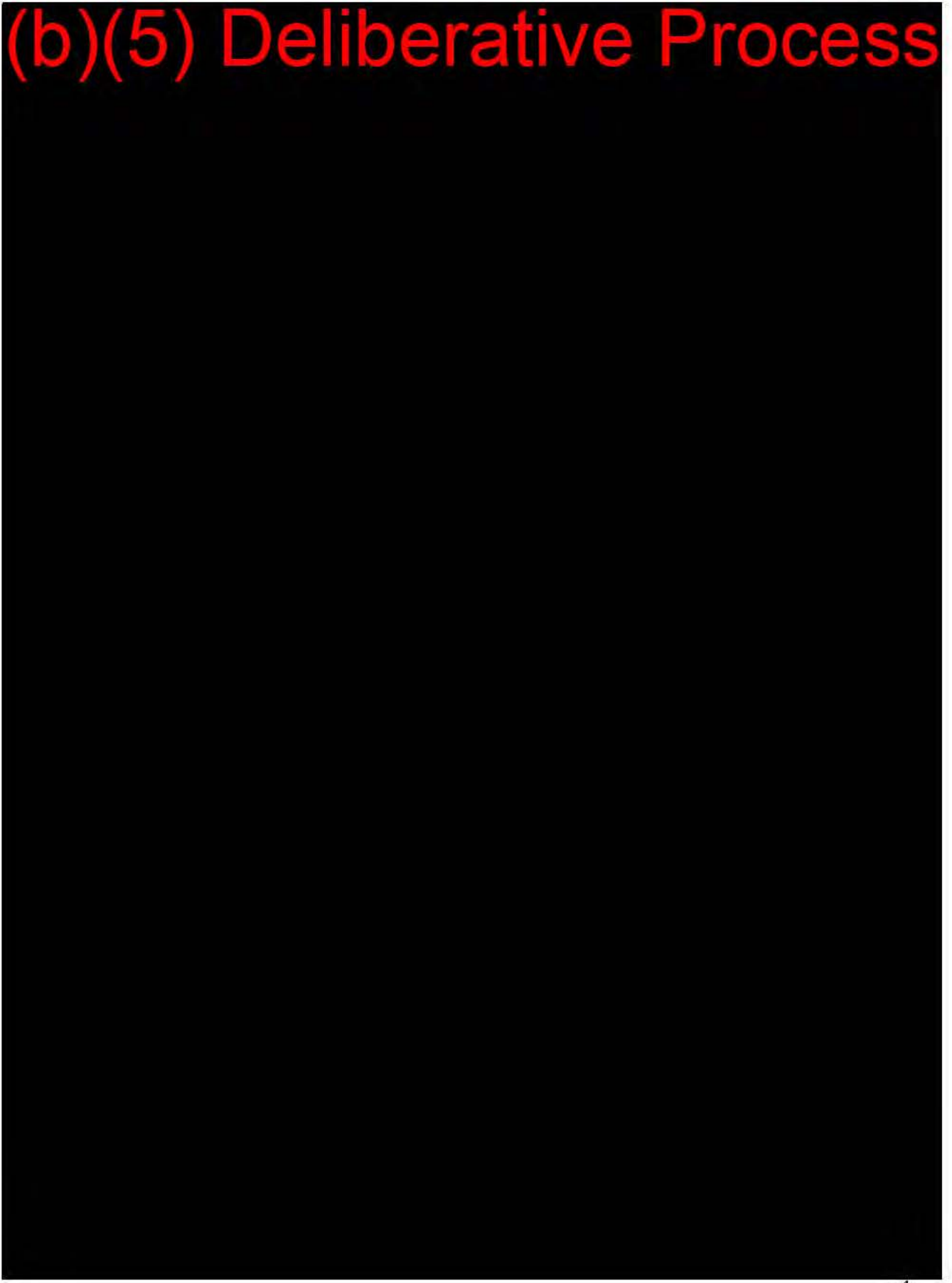
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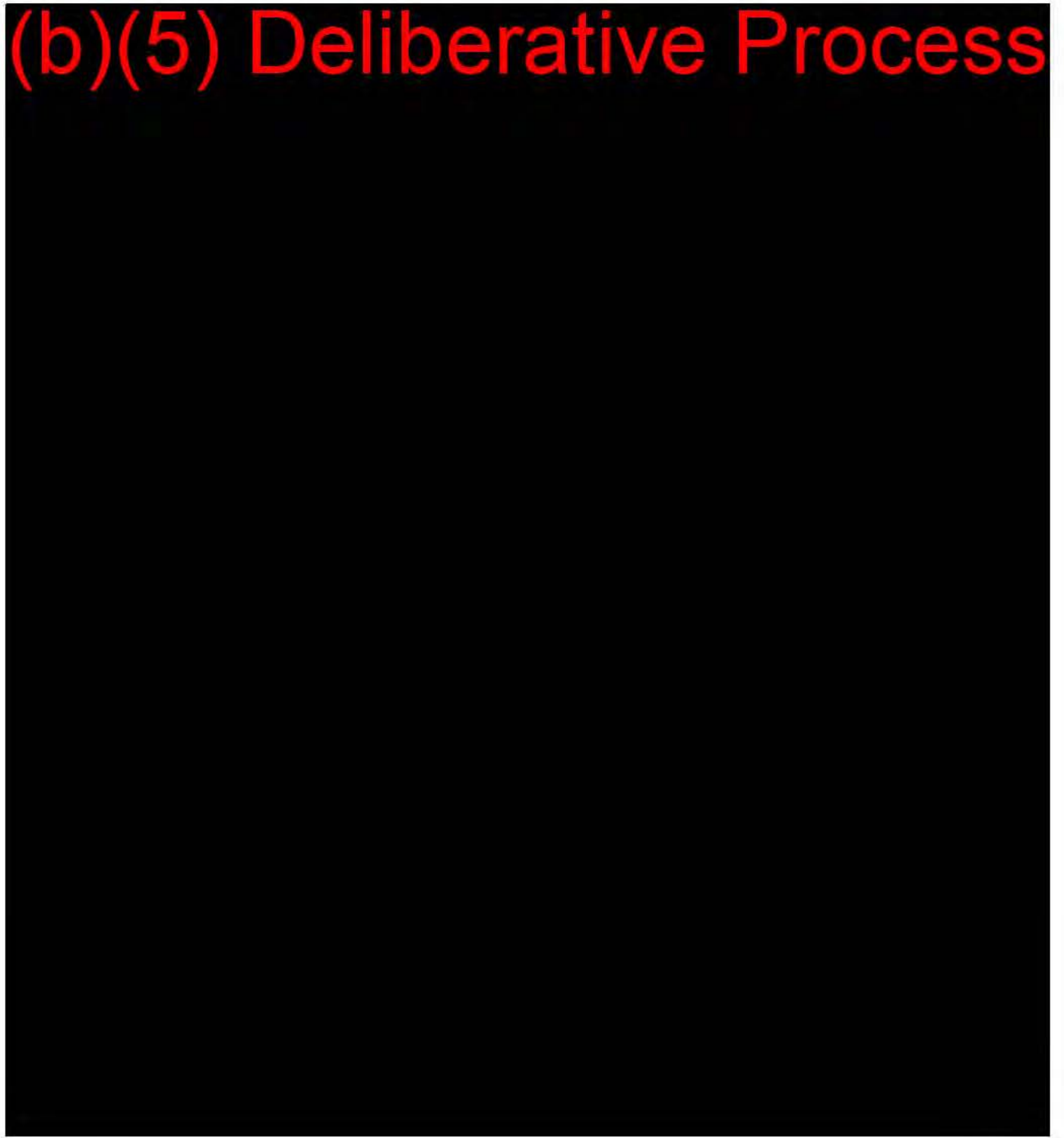
(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



(b)(5) Deliberative Process



From: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: 13 Dec 2019 15:47:27 +0000
To: Helming, Sarah J - APHIS; Osterlind, Anna - AMS
Cc: Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

Thank you!

From: Helming, Sarah J - APHIS <sarah.j.helming@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - AMS <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>
Cc: Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS <Caleb.Crosswhite@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

None from us.

From: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 7:28 PM
To: Osterlind, Anna - AMS <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Helming, Sarah J - APHIS <sarah.j.helming@usda.gov>
Cc: Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS <Caleb.Crosswhite@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

(b)(5) - Deliberative?

Lorren

From: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 5:08 PM
To: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS <Caleb.Crosswhite@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - AMS <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; MacGregor, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Guy, Chandler - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chandler.Guy@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

FYSA.

(b)(5) - Deliberative?

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From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 4:58:56 PM

To: Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

All – please make sure to read through this. If you disagree (b)(5) Deliberative Process
(b)(5) - Deliberative

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Gifford, Sally - OC, Washington, DC <sally.gifford@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 4:36 PM

To: OC-CLEARANCE <OC-CLEARANCE@usda.gov>

Cc: OC-PUBLIC-AFFAIRS-DIRECTORS <OC-PUBLIC-AFFAIRS-DIRECTORS@usda.gov>; Ohagan, Christopher - AMS <christopher.ohagan@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>

Subject: CLEARANCE: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

Please DO NOT reply all. Send comments to sally.gifford@usda.gov

Draft release: Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

Originating Agency/Office: USDA Office of Communications

Type of Release: Department

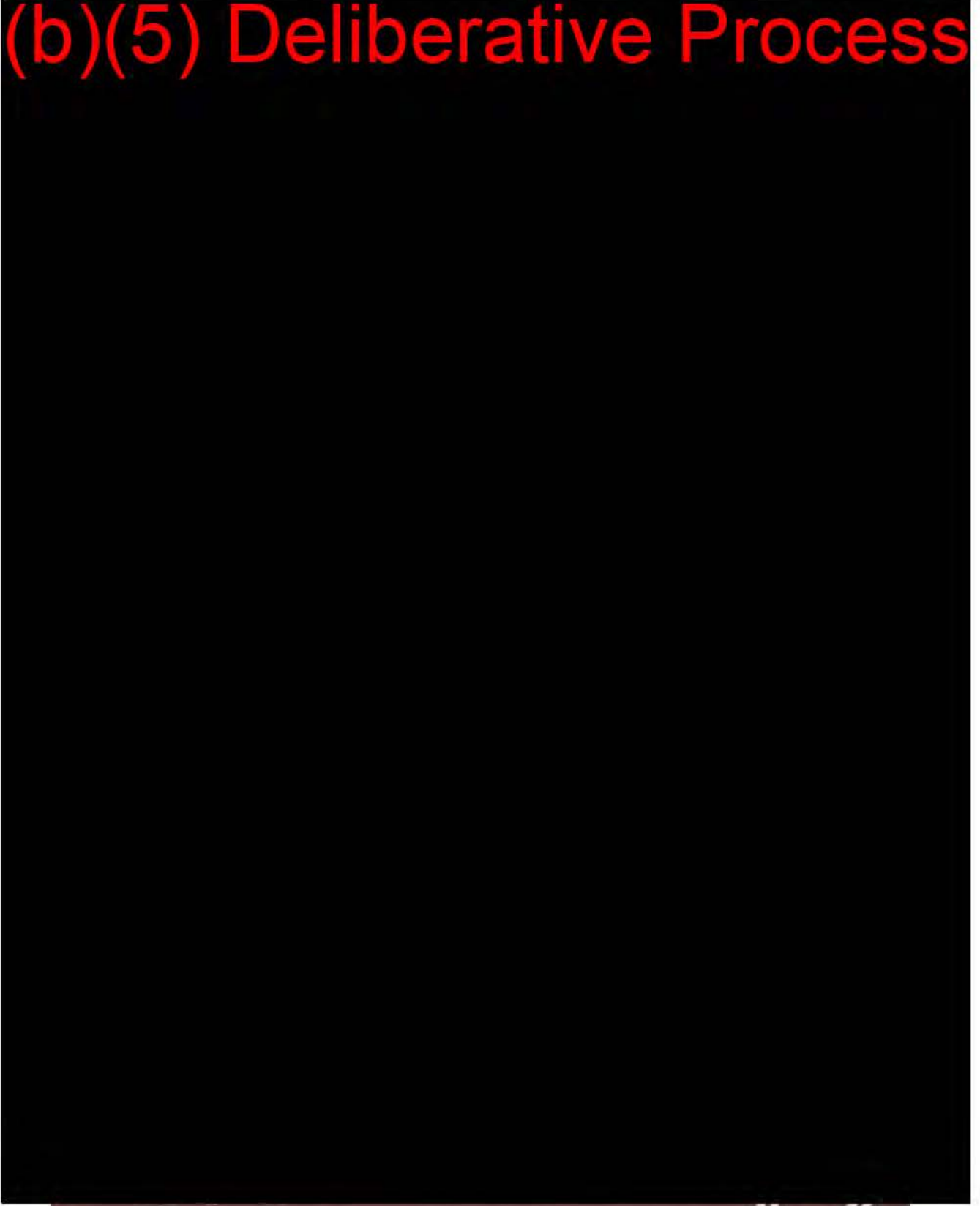
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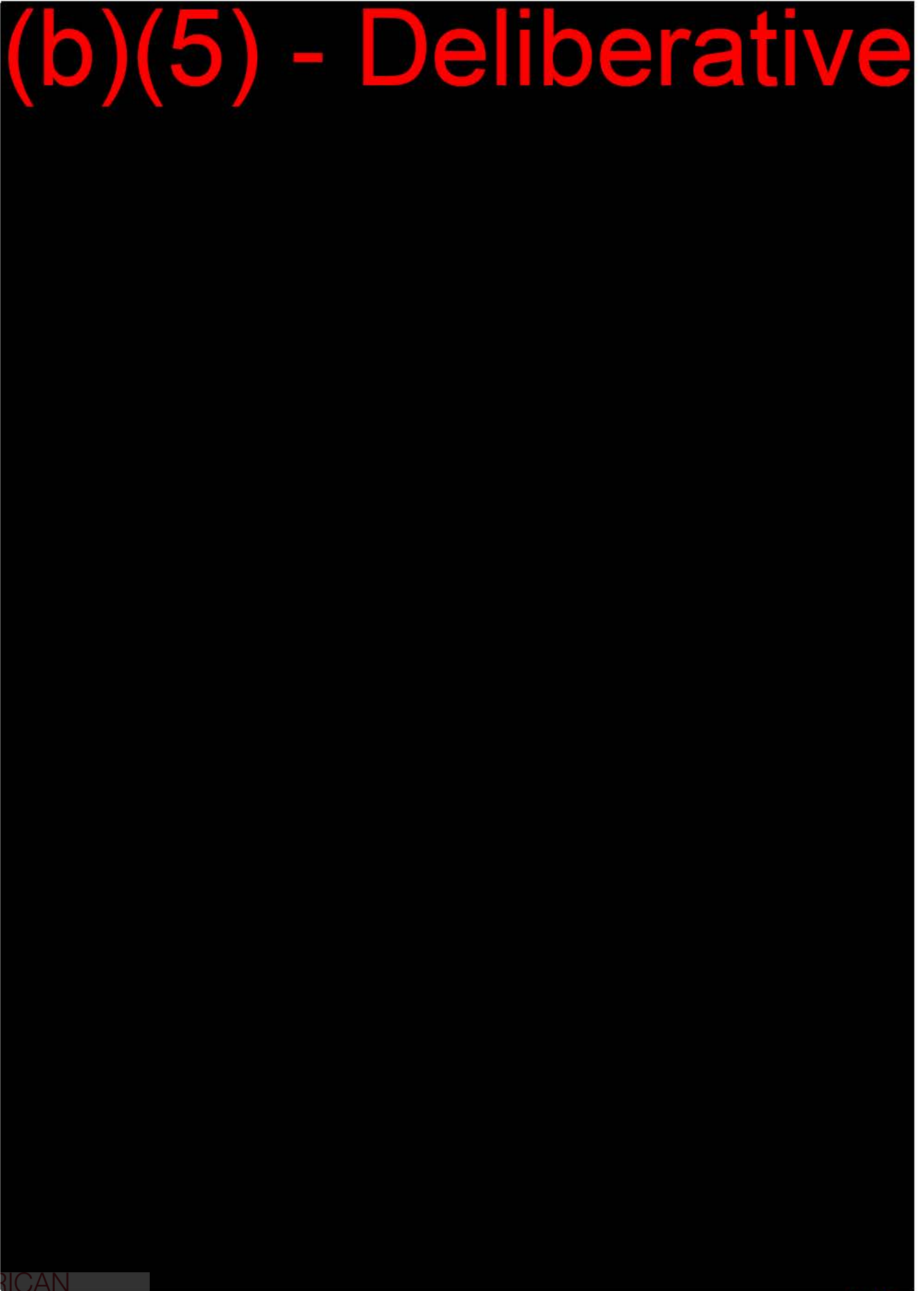
Secretary Perdue Applauds USDA's 2019 Accomplishments

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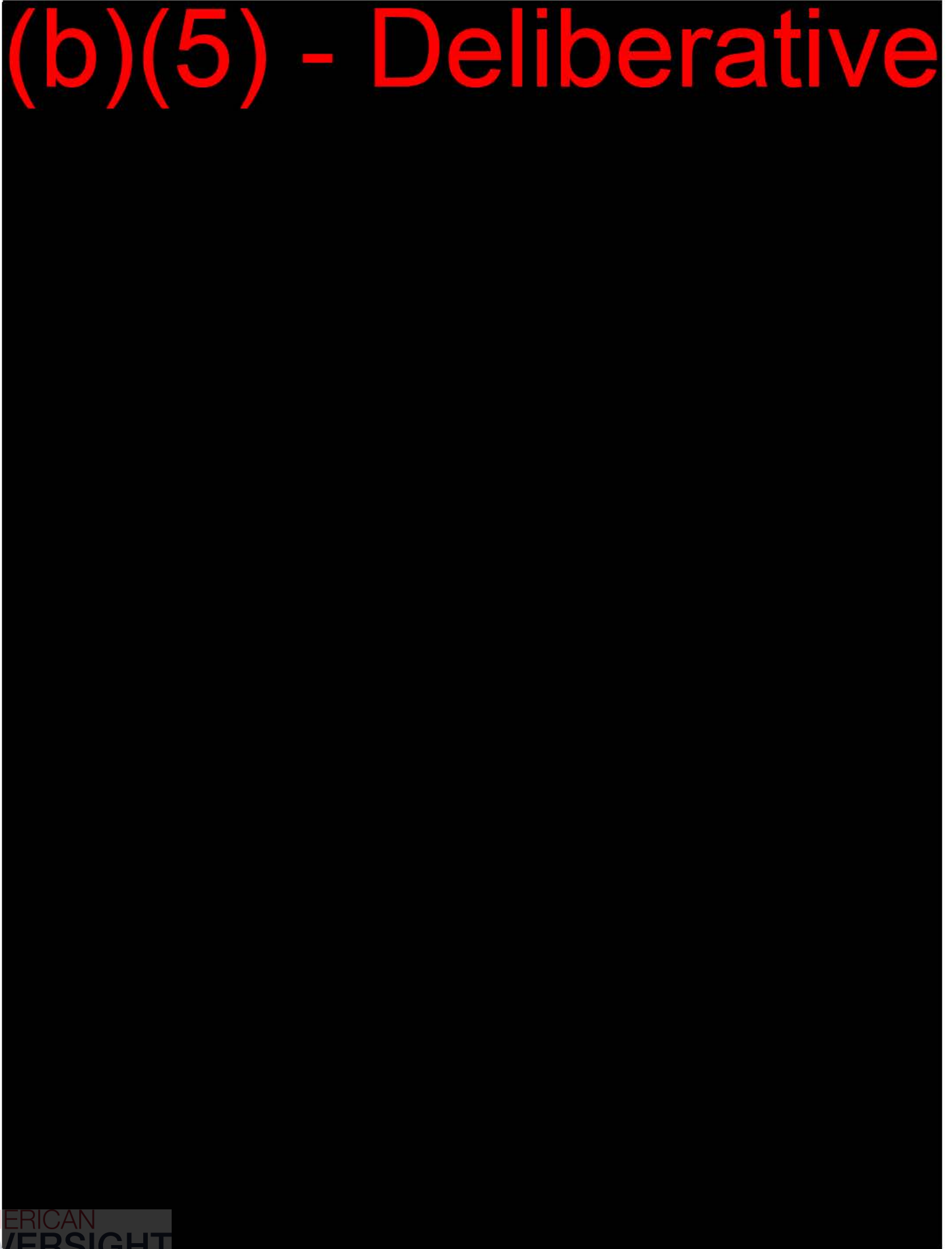
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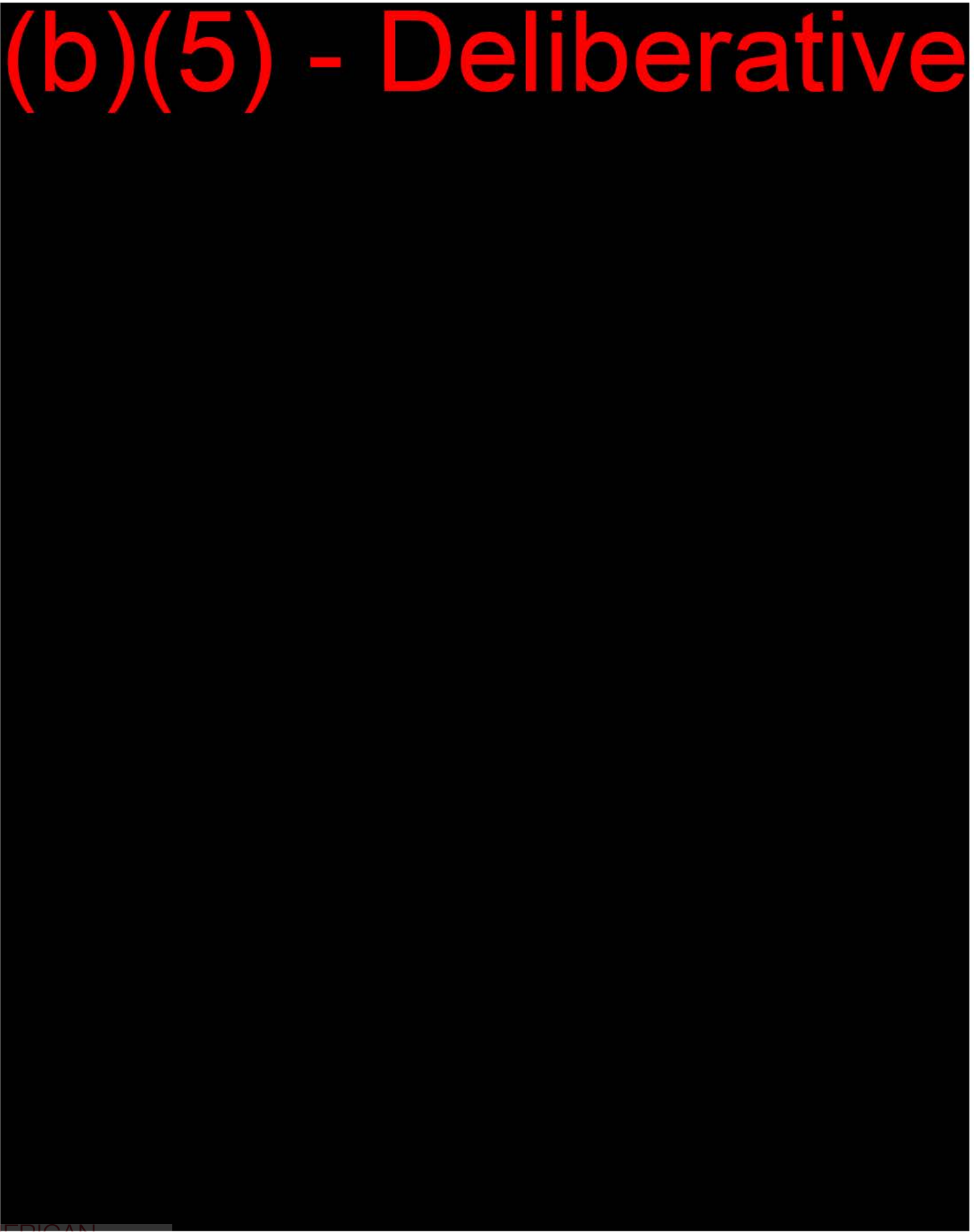
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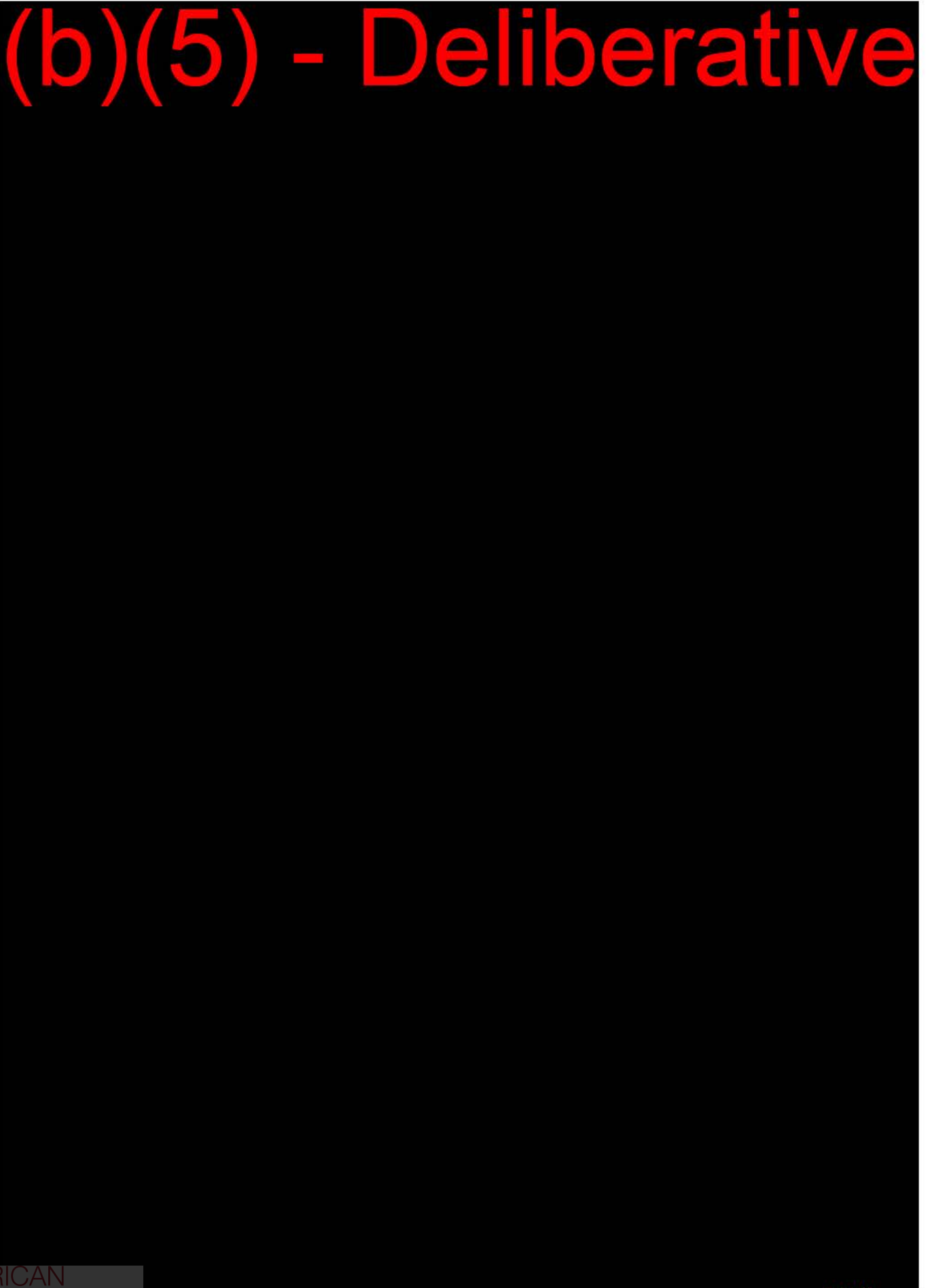
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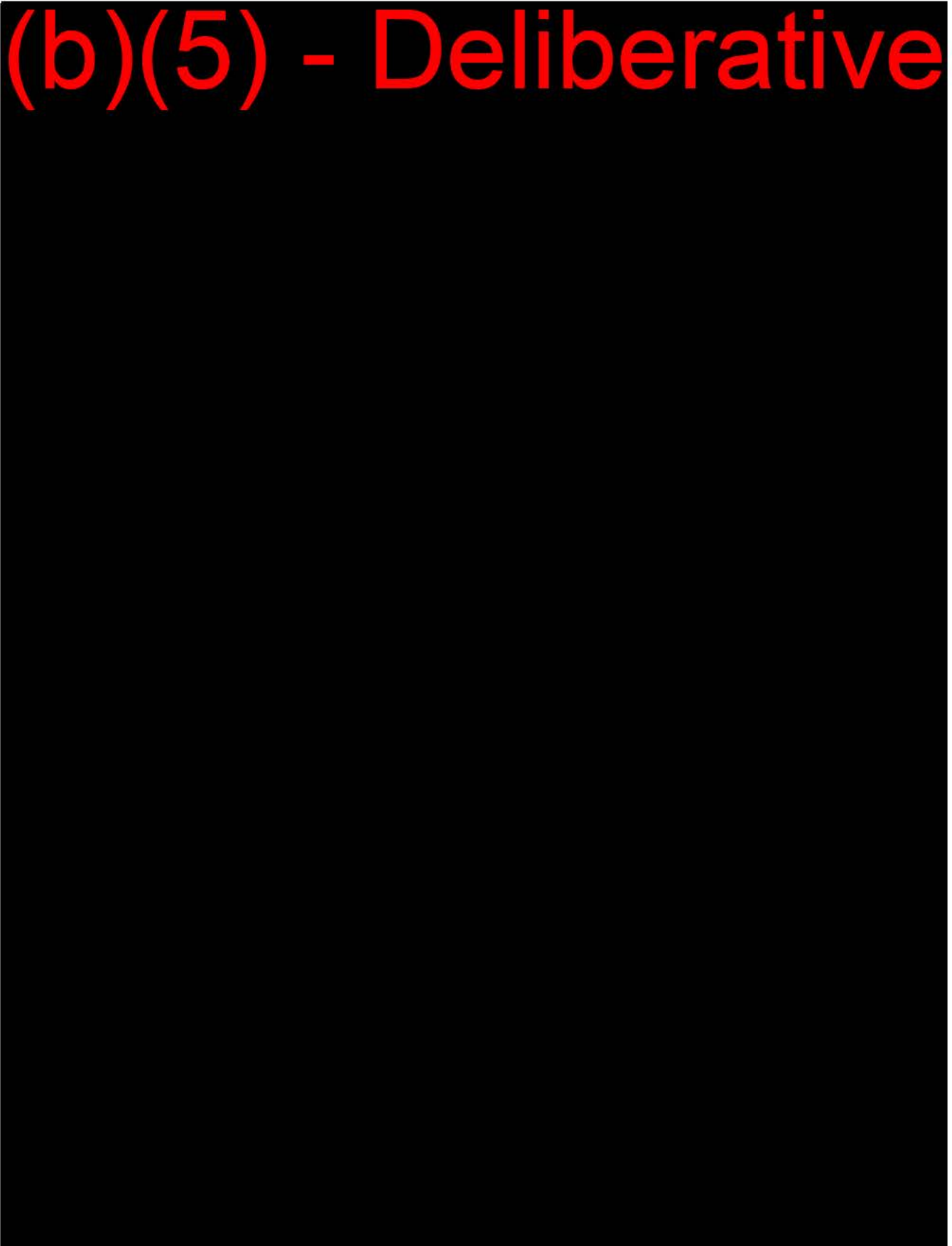
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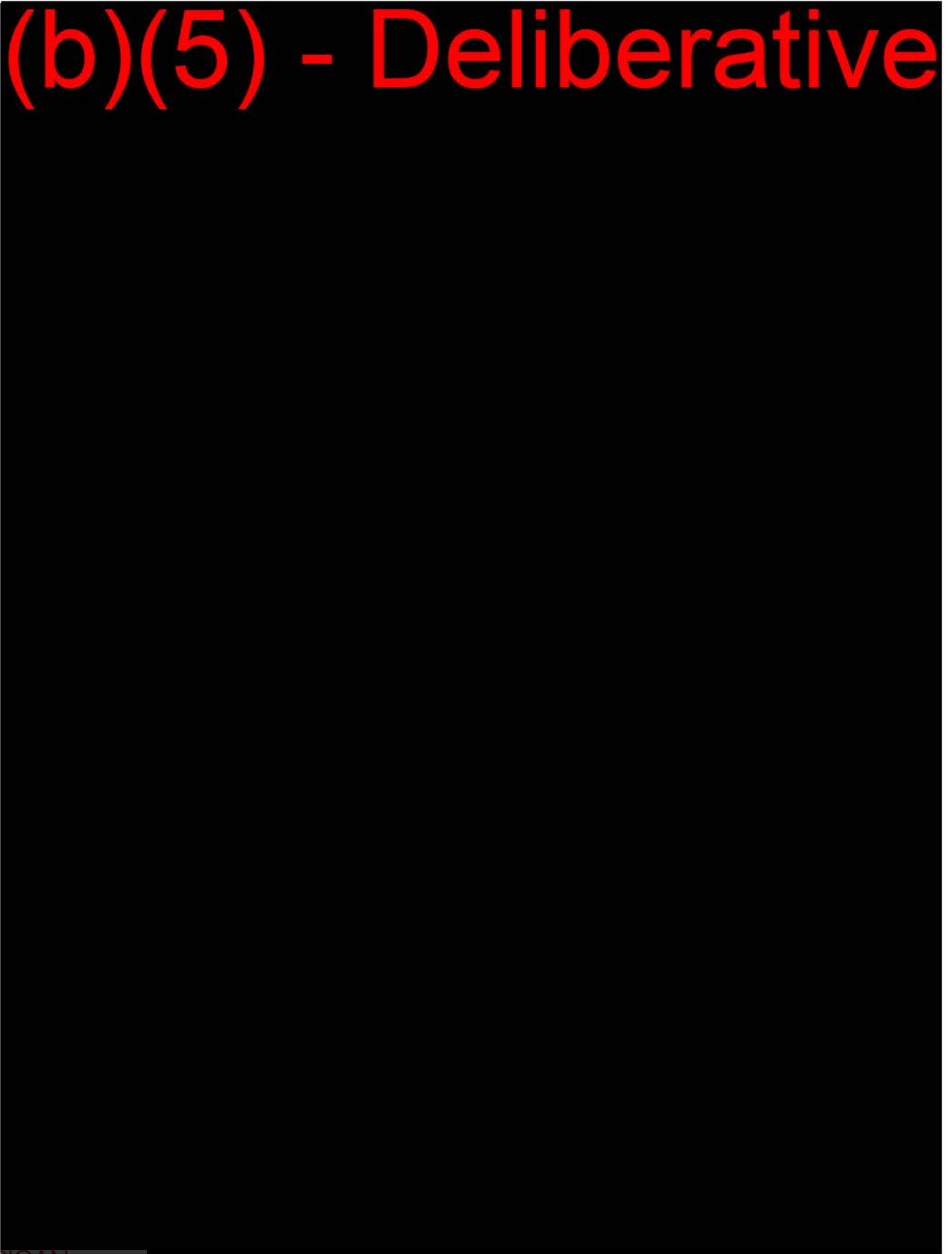
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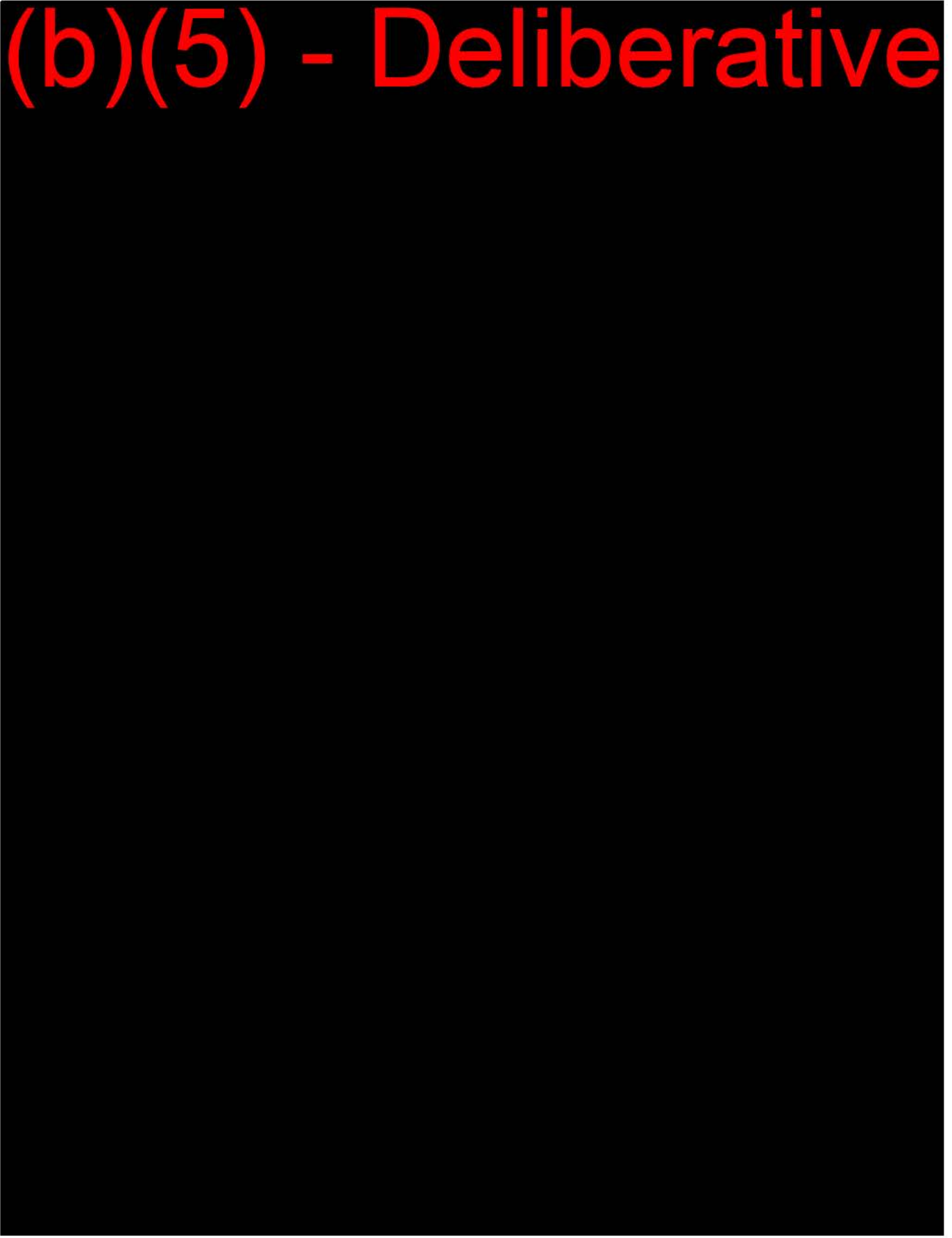
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(b)(5) - Deliberative



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Office of Communications
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-690-0548 | sally.gifford@usda.gov