

**Bull Goose Rooster-Watermelon Slim and the Workers    Northern Blues    NBM0064    2013**

Be it the piercing stare of Ol' Bull Goose, the straight forward take no prisoners boogie of the Workers or the intelligent yet populist mien of Mr. Bill Homan, Watermelon Slim's 12<sup>th</sup> album is crackerjack moonshine powerful. Slim pours his heart out through his harp, his Mensa mind focuses and distills and the band cranks with brilliant thrills and chills. Always a gadfly albeit our gadfly, Slim is the top of the heap when it comes to no holds barred, downtown good, roots rocking and socially conscious, say it like it is real. From Chicago to the Delta to ragtime, gospel and all in between, the music drives while the subject matter ranges from the King of the roost to US foreign policy, vigilante's, trucker wisdom and prison walls. Through 16 cuts with originals and Jr. Wells, Woody Guthrie, Stan Rogers and Slim Harpo covers, Slim is righteous and to the point vocally, fluid and deep on the harp and an articulate dobro player. The disk is set on Hi from start to finish but "Vigilante Man", "A Wrench In the Machine", "Prison Walls", "Foreign Policy Blues" and "Trucking Class" are more than just catchy musicianship. "Blue Freightliner" echoes Canned Heat's "On the Road" and "Scratch My Back" has CCR style while a brilliant reading of Stan Rogers' "Northwest Passage" turns into a trucker's elegy. Slim has been there and it shows from Boston to North Carolina to Vietnam vet to Vietnam protester, ex-con, trucker, farmer, raconteur, entertainer, educator... This one crows with raw power and sheer special.    9 snaves