

Yes, please deliver my signed proxy letter, below, to the offices of the President of the United States, USDA Secretary, Director of the National Organic Program, and members of the National Organic Standards Board. [Please add additional personal comments on back.]

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH PROXY LETTER!

We will mechanically cut letter off before submitting

Dear President Biden, USDA Secretary Vilsack, Dr. Tucker, and Members of the NOSB,

Please reverse the well-established practice of appointing members to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) who have current or past relationships with the industry's major lobby group, the Organic Trade Association (OTA).

Big Food has consolidated ownership of most of the largest and best-known organic brands. The USDA has stacked the NOSB with members from, or friendly to, corporate interests. An analysis by OrganicEye shows that over 70% are intimately affiliated, as members or in some other professional capacity, with the OTA.

The NOSB was established by Congress in 1990 to ensure that the voice of organic farmers and consumers drove the direction of USDA's organic program. At the time, there was grave concern about handing over the budding organic farming movement to conventionally-focused government bureaucrats and the corrupting influence of corporate agribusiness.

In a move that some see as a further attempt to consolidate power, the OTA is currently partnering with some members of Congress to introduce legislation, the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act (CIAO). (Please don't sign it if it passes, Mr. President.)

Instead of the overreliance on lobbyists to help write laws, we encourage you to create balance by amplifying the voices of the nonprofit public interest groups that have, for decades, helped launch, nurture, and monitor the growth of organics. The eight most independent and prominent groups include:

The Center for Food Safety, Organic Farmers Association, National Organic Coalition, The Cornucopia Institute, Organic Consumers Association, Consumers Union, Wild Farm Alliance, and Beyond Pesticides/OrganicEye.

The OTA has spent years, and invested untold corporate dues, in honing the persona of a charitable group working in the interest of the public when, in fact, it is a corporate lobby group that has disagreed with the nonprofit groups on virtually every controversial issue before the NOSB.

President Biden and USDA Secretary Vilsack have both made it clear that, during this new administration, there will be a focus on corporate consolidation and its deleterious effects on agriculture and society. We ask that this philosophy of marketplace fairness also take root, going forward, in USDA governance and the nurturing of true organic farming and food production.

Respectfully yours,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



I want to support authenticity and justice in our food system. Please count me in as a charter OrganicEye member.

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Q3:2021