

Yes, please deliver my signed proxy letter to USDA leadership.

Feel free to add your own comments on the back. If you are concerned about retribution from your certifier or the USDA, please sign "name withheld."

All donations are voluntary and greatly appreciated to help underwrite this campaign. Even if you choose not to donate, please fill out the bottom portion of this page so we can confirm your NOP certification status. [Be assured that we will never sell or share your personal information!]

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH PROXY LETTER!

We will mechanically separate the letter before submitting.

To: Jennifer Tucker, PhD, USDA National Organic Program

Once the new administration takes office, I would respectfully request that you send a copy of this letter to the new USDA Secretary. Although you lead the NOP, we understand that remediating some of our concerns might fall to the political appointees running the agency. But we, as taxpayers, hold all of you responsible.

Organic shoppers have been led to believe that higher prices help underwrite better environmental stewardship, humane animal husbandry, and fairness for the people producing their food.

As sales of organic food in the US have grown exponentially, certified organic land has flatlined at about 1 percent — resulting in a return to investors but not to society.

In fairness to ethical farmers and businesspeople, and their certifiers, we demand immediate action to level the competitive playing field and resolve the following conflicts between certifiers interpreting OFPA and the regulations:

1. Many leaders and pioneers in the organic community interpret OFPA to affirm that **certifying hydroponic production** is in clear violation of the intent of Congress that required soil stewardship practices.
2. Based on scale, climate, housing density, and stocking levels on pasture, **CAFO operations stretch credulity beyond the breaking point** according to livestock industry standards and expert analysis.
3. Certifiers are required to spin off lobbying, advocacy, and other functions unrelated to USDA accreditation. This is not being enforced by the NOP.
4. Certifiers are also specifically prohibited from accepting anything of value over and above certification fees. The NOP is not banning **clear conflicts of interest**.
5. OFPA distinctly requires any foods labeled as "organic" to come from annually inspected certified farms. **Imports are widely ignoring the law**, as is the NOP.

A legion of USDA lawyers, paid for by taxpayers such as myself, have successfully challenged standing, thus denying citizens their day in court on the aforementioned issues. I ask you to respect the letter and spirit of the law, and the founding principles of organic, and immediately enforce all USDA standards.

Respectfully yours,

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

E MAIL _____

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