

CitizenLetter

An urgent message from a concerned citizen

March 28, 1998

Secretary Glickman
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP
Room 4007-So., Ag Stop 0275
PO Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-6456

Dear Secretary Glickman,

I am writing to express my concern over the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed organic food regulations (#TMD-94-00-2).

Since 1990, the natural foods industry has been working with the USDA to establish a standardized definition of what is -- and what is not -- considered organic. An advisory board was even recruited by the USDA to help generate national standards.

Now, in a complete turnaround, the USDA rejected its own advisory board's recommendations. It is also succumbing to pressure from biotechnology, agribusiness and other industry giants that want to weaken the regulation of organic food production. As a consumer of organic food, I find three possible changes especially alarming and urge you to reject them: genetic engineering, irradiation and municipal waste sludge.

I urge you to heed the advice of your own advisory board and to protect the organic label. Please accept this letter as official public comment and tell me what you intend to do on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

*CitizenLetters are a service of Working Assets.**