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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).

After more than six year's work, the experts appointed by Congress to draft the rules, the National Organic Standards Board, submitted proposed rules to the Department of Agriculture. Why, then, did the FDA suddenly come up with its own set of rules? Why do these rules favor agribusiness at the expense of the organic industry? And why is it illegal to have higher standards than those set by the FDA?

Not only are genetic engineering, factory farming, toxic sludge, animal cannibalism, and food irradiation unacceptable but also all of the proposed regulations. This proposal needs to be scrapped and redone completely.

We need to hear consumer voices and organic farmers, and leave out the CEOs of the agribusinesses.

This is a thinly veiled attempt for a takeover of the label "organic." People want clean, safe food and I beg of you to protect the organic label. To do otherwise, as you advocate, takes away the freedom of choice of the consumer. Right now, when I buy organic, I know what I am getting (and also what I am avoiding.)

Freedom of choice is a big issue with the American people. Please don't take it away from us.

Sincerely,