

USDA- National Organic Standards
USDA, AMS, Room 4007-S
AgStop 0275, P.O. Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-6456

Re: Docket#TMD-94-00-2

Dear Sir or Madam:

I send you this letter today to encourage you to **OPPOSE** the use of **genetically engineered organisms, irradiation** (also known as ionizing radiation), **toxic sludge** and irresponsible use of **antibiotics** in the proposed national standards to regulate the production of Organic food.

Genetic engineering may have long-term adverse affects on the environment and our health. Ionizing radiation has never been accepted in any legislated definition of Organic and does not belong in the federal definition. Municipal sewage sludge may be contaminated with dangerous chemicals (lead, cadmium, etc.) which could be absorbed by the crops. Overuse of antibiotics in livestock passes them on to the consumer who ingests the meat. Please also tighten up the livestock portion of the rules to **restrict the use of hormones and steroids, and ban the use of rendered** (i.e. dead, ground up) **animals** as a feed to herbivore animals.

I consider it vital to develop standards that encourage environmental stewardship and a safe food supply. Please re-write the rules to adhere to the requirements of the Organic Food Protection Act and to the principles consistently used by organic farmers. Please also **SUPPORT** the **NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARD BOARD'S ROLE** in determining allowable synthetic ingredients. Congress created this independent board with strong experience in organic agriculture. It deserves to be the primary body governing the future of Organic.

Agribusiness and pharmaceutical giants act only in their short term self-interest and not in the interest of public health. Please do not allow their money and powerful lobbies to sway your decisions about our health! Please give us a real choice in the marketplace.

Thank you,