

Date 4/4/98

Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room4007-So., Ag Stop 0275,
P.O.Box 96456,
Washington, DC 20090-6456.
[Docket Number: TMD-94-00-2] RIN: 0581-AA40
National Organic Program

Dear Eileen S. Stommes,

Please support the National Organic Standards Board's (NOSB), recommendations to the USDA and rewrite your National Organic Standards and adhere to the NOSB's guidelines. **The definition for "Organic" should never include genetically engineered nor irradiated foods.** Also, never the use of bio-solids in the cultivation of organic foods.

Severe allergic reactions have developed in some people eating food with unnatural genes inserted. Animal genes have been inserted in plants, making them technically non-vegetarian. Genetically Engineered Organisms -section 205.8, page 65875 of the Federal Register, Vol. 62, No. 241, 12-16-97. GEO's are intrusions on natural evolutionary development. Some scientific studies have shown that pollen drift can pass on characteristics to wild plants, causing "super weeds." Other harmful consequences could easily occur.

Irradiation creates new chemicals in foods called radio lytic products. Many are known to be cancer causing substances, such as benzene. No studies have been done that show that a long-term diet of irradiated foods is safe.

If the biosludge that the USDA is pushing is so great, then why won't the USDA indemnify the organic farmers they are asking to use sewer sludge. If our government finally realizes that we made a mistake and ruined their land, then why won't they indemnify these organic farmers and give them an equal amount of money for ruining their land!

Finally, the USDA should follow the NOSB recommendation to prohibit the use of **synthetic inerts** contained in EPA List 1, "Inerts of Toxicological Concern," EPA List 2 - "Potentially Toxic Inerts," and EPA List 3 - "Potentially Toxic Inerts," instead of permitting those on lists 2 and 3.

Sincerely,

signature

printed name

address

cc: Congressman & U.S. Senators