

March 19, 1998

Eileen S. Stommes
Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP
Room 4007 So., Ag Stop 0275
P. O. Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-6456

Dear Ms. Stommes:

Re: National List, Docket Number: TMD-94-00-2

As a purchaser and consumer of organically grown foods, I am writing to express my utter dissatisfaction and dismay over the content of your proposed rule on organic food production and to ask that it be withdrawn, revised, and resubmitted in a form that fully reflects the advice and expertise of the National Organic Standards Board.

In particular, I urge you to maintain the integrity of organic agriculture and to give us meaningful choice about how our food is produced by prohibiting all of the following products and practices for foods labeled and/or sold as "certified organic".

1. Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEO's, Section 205.6). I urge you to take the advice of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and not allow the use of GEO's, in any manner, in organic farming, processing, or handling.

2. Ionizing Radiation (Section 205.17). The use of ionizing radiation is completely inconsistent with organic farming and the processing and handling of organically grown foods. The use of sanitary farm and processing practices that are compatible with organic farming should be used to decrease the incidence of food-borne diseases in certified organic foods.

3. Sewage Sludge (Biosolids, Section 205.22). Please follow the advice of the National Organic Standards Board and prohibit the use of biosolids for organic crop production.

By severely lowering the standards for organic food production, the Proposed Rule undermines the integrity of the organic label. Therefore, I again ask that the Proposed Rule be withdrawn, revised, and resubmitted to reflect the desires and intent of the farmers, consumers, and retailers whose hard work and hard-earned dollars are responsible for the tremendous growth and exceptional quality of the organic industry in the United States. The people who care so deeply about these issues must be heard, and their choices respected and honored.

Sincerely yours,

Address:

cc: President Clinton and Vice President Gore, The White House