

February 20, 1998

Docket #TMD-94-00-2
Eileen S. Stommes Deputy Administrator
USDA AMS TM NOP Room 4007-so,
Ag Stop 0275 P. O Box 96456
Wash, DC 20090-6456

To the Secretary:

I would like to comment on the proposed USDA rule on the labeling of organic products. I am an organic home gardener and a consumer of organic foods. (comment topic heading: general). I strongly urge the USDA follow the National Organic Standards Board recommendations, and withdraw the proposed rule. The word organic implies a process which use procedures that set a higher standard than the norm in agribusiness. It means that all aspects of the food producing process have been carefully selected to use the safest methods of production. I urge the USDA to sustain the independence of the NOSB's statutory authority. (Comment topic heading: General/ National list)

I oppose changes to the National List. I support the elimination of:

1-killed B1, 2-piperonyl Butoxide, 3-chymosin

(comment topic heading: General/Crops Handling/ National list): I support the NOSB's prohibition on the use of genetic engineering at every stage of production and processing for health, ethical, and environmental reasons. I support the NOSB's definition of genetic engineering.

(comment Topic Heading: Crops/ Handling/ National list): I support the NOSB's prohibition of municipal sewer sludge on organic labeled crops.

(comment topic Heading: Handling/ National list): I support the NOSB's prohibition on the use of Ionizing Radiation in the handling of organic food.

(Comment Topic Heading: Livestock): I support the NOSB's prohibition and restrictions on the use of antibiotics in Livestock.

(comment topic heading Livestock): I support the NOSB's recommendations on animal feed.

(comment topic heading :Fees): I support the NOSB's Fee Recommendations concerning the impact on small farms.

(Comment Topic Heading: Crops/Handling/National list): I support the NOSB's prohibition of Inert Ingredients.

(Comment Topic Heading: Labeling): I oppose the USDA's Eco-Labeling Prohibition. It is an infringement on the first ammendment.

(Comment Topic Heading: General): I oppose the USDA's Definition of Residual Environmental Contamination.

(Comment Topic Heading: Equivalency): I seek clarification on the procedures addressing the Importation of foreign Organic Products.

(comment topic Heading/livestock): I support the NOSB's prohibition on feeding animals to animals.

Finally, I urge the Secretary to support the individual citizen's right to be able to make superior choices, based on complete information. Without implementation of the NOSB's recommendations, the USDA's proposed use of the word "organic" would be absolutely meaningless.

Sincerely,

Print Name_
and address
