

Eileen Stommes
USDA-AMST-M-NOP, Rm. 4007S
AG STOP 0275
P. O. Box 96456
Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

Ref: Docket # TMD94002

Dear Ms Stommes and others,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the present form of Organic Standards proposed by your Department. I firmly believe that we Americans have a right to demand that standards for this very important label be very, very strict and always err on the side of safety.

Therefore, I object to the inclusion of genetic engineered foods in the Organic category, per page 65875. The potential for future harm and the lack of long term (20 years or more) testing of this technology pose an unknown that should not contaminate the Organic Label.

I object to the inclusion of Irradiated foods in the Organic category, per page 65884. As a consumer of Organic foods I positively DO NOT wish to consume irradiated foods, ever, no how, no way! As a free citizen of this country this is my right! Many other countries also do not want to consume irradiated foods and the allowance of these in the Organic Label will prevent our organic foods from being imported by these countries.

I object to allowing Municipal Sludge as a soil enrichment for the Organic category, per pages 65892, 65893. The potential for many ingredients I consider dangerous or possibly dangerous to organic soils in municipal sludge is far too great for safety. Heavy metals, pesticide residues, petroleum byproducts, and who knows what else may linger in the sludge to harm the soil and often be drawn up into the plants and our organic food chain. As stated above, for the Organic Label, we MUST err on the side of safety.

I also find the Fee Structure onerous for small farmers. The government agencies should, at all times, go out of their way to support our small farmers, not doing this goes against all common sense. Small farmers are the backbone of our society and must be encouraged. As a resident of a small rural county I am aware of the need for these farmers to keep our economy strong.

Your provision denying private certification organizations from having stronger rules than the federal rules and prohibition of incursion on labels of seals of approval of those organizations is not in the interest of citizens of this country. We need to be able to decide which foods we want to buy and to know just exactly what standards those foods adhere to.

In closing I urge you to limit ingredients approved for the Organic Label to those approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute. I also urge support for the proposal put forth by the Organic Trade Association and rejection of the rules presently proposed by your administration.

Thank you for your time,