

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

Re: Docket Number TMD-94-00-2

Dear National Organic Program Staff:

Please revise your proposed rules on organic food production to fully reflect the advice and expertise of the National Organic Standards Board. The Board went to great lengths to create an open and inclusive process that involves thousands of citizens, including those who are most informed about, and most affected by, this issue.

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

- Genetically engineered organisms and materials
- Sewage sludge ("biosolids," §205.22)
- Irradiation ("ionizing irradiation")
- All inert ingredients unless they are rated by the EPA as "Generally Recognized As Safe" (§205.21 (d))

I am also opposed to the prohibition of private organic seals with standards higher than the Federal ones, and I urge you to protect the interests of the small organic farmers who have been the pioneers of the organic movement by exempting small farmers from the onerous fees and paperwork involved in certification.

Sincerely,

Print Name

Address

Signature