

Ms. Stommes,

I am writing to voice my deep concern regarding the USDA's proposed guidelines for organic certification. The organic label should be reserved for those products adhering to the highest standards of purity in all stages of growth and processing. Inclusion of such practices as genetic engineering and irradiation meet the needs of the biotechnology and nuclear industries, not those of the concerned and health-conscious consumer. Please take into serious consideration whose needs are being met by this proposal and know that I heartily oppose the practice of selling these guidelines to the highest bidder. Organic certification should absolutely never include food that is genetically engineered, irradiated, or treated with sewer sludge, pesticides, herbicides, hormones or antibiotics. The term "organic" must continue to define only those food products which are *natural from start to finish*. Please ammend the proposed guidelines to accurately reflect your integrity and the needs and concerns of the American consumer.

Thank you,