



1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 2648-S, STOP 0268  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0268

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is entered into by The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. any person responsibly connected with QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc.

USDA, AMS and QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. have decided to settle the issues among them related to alleged violations of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. §§ 6501 et seq.) (OFPA), and regulations promulgated thereunder (7 CFR §§ 205 et seq.).

Accordingly, the parties agree to the following:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture has jurisdiction in this matter.
2. USDA, AMS agrees not to file a formal administrative complaint charging QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. with alleged violations of the OFPA and the regulations for any actions disclosed by the investigation which gave rise to this agreement.
3. USDA, AMS agrees to consider a request for reinstatement of organic certification from QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. upon execution of this settlement agreement.
4. QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. agrees to the following:
  - A. QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. has been given the opportunity for a hearing and waives such hearing and further procedure for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purposes only.
  - B. QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. agrees that failure to comply with the settlement agreement shall automatically void number 2 above, and that USDA, AMS may thereafter institute a formal administrative proceeding against QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc., and pursue any and all remedies available under the OFPA and the regulations.
  - C. QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. agrees to pay a reduced penalty of \$11,000, in full settlement of this matter.

The NOP will consider the request for reinstatement from QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc. upon receipt of payment.

(b) (6)

Mr. Chris Topps  
Owner  
QST Ingredients and Packaging, Inc.

Date: 2/22/16

  
Miles V. McEvoy  
Deputy Administrator  
National Organic Program, AMS, USDA

Date: 2/23/16