

DES/20/98 new

TMD-94-00-2
Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, AG Stop 0275, Room 4007-So.
P. O. Box 96456
Washington, D. C. 20090-6456

March 10, 1998

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3-17-98*

Dear Ms. Stommes,

I am writing in response to the proposed National Organic Standards to let you know that I believe the regulations should reflect the NOSB's recommendations in their entirety. It is the organic sector that has produced the success of organic foods, and it is they who should determine what the national standard will be. I do not want genetically engineered (GE) organisms, GE Processing agents or GE agricultural inputs to be allowed in organic even on a case by case basis. I also ask that you prohibit the use of irradiation and sewage sludge, and that the standard for the treatment of livestock in organic and the fee structure for certification be consistent with the NOSB's recommendations. The NOSB represents a broad consensus of organic farmers, manufacturers and consumers regarding the principles of organic agriculture and foods production. To formulate regulations that do not reflect their recommendations on genetic engineering, irradiation, sewage sludge, the needs of the small farmer and the treatment of animals will gravely weaken consumer confidence in the organic label, and threaten the viability of this industry. Thank you for including my input in your final decision.

Sincerely,

Mary Houghton
MARY I. HOUGHTON
6729 Hahaione Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

cc: Mother's for Natural Law