



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last year, I sent you a letter in which I discussed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many of you have already taken positive actions to make your procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with yours to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 requiring Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

As you are also aware, on October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) establishes Federal government requirements for sustainable acquisition. The purchase of biobased products is expressly cited as one way to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our environment.

USDA is committed to the success of the Executive Order and the BioPreferred program, for which we have statutory responsibility. President Obama has committed the Federal government to lead by example in demonstrating sustainable practices in our day-to-day operations. One important way to lead by example in the green procurement area is for you to urge your Chief Acquisition Officers to support the BioPreferred program both through direct purchases and in service contracts. I am enclosing a suggested memorandum for you to send to your Chief Acquisition Officer for dissemination. I would greatly appreciate an electronic copy of the final memo you forward to your procurement official. I am also enclosing a copy of the BioPreferred fact sheet I sent to you last year.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last year, I sent you a letter in which I discussed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many of you have already taken positive actions to make your procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with yours to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 requiring Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

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An Equal Opportunity Employer



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

Last year, I sent you a letter in which I discussed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many of you have already taken positive actions to make your procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with yours to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 requiring Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

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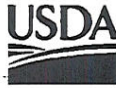
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Thomas J. Vilsack
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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Janet A. Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Madam Secretary:

Last year, I sent you a letter in which I discussed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many of you have already taken positive actions to make your procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with yours to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 requiring Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Gary F. Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
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APR 11 2010

The Honorable Shaun L.S. Donovan
Secretary
U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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United States Department of Agriculture

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APR 11 2010

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Vice President
United States
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Peter R. Orszag
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

Last year, I communicated with many cabinet officials regarding the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many have already taken positive actions to make procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with Federal agencies to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 that requires Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Susan Rice
Ambassador
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Madam Ambassador:

Last year, I communicated with many cabinet officials regarding the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many have already taken positive actions to make procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with Federal agencies to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 that requires Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

As you are also aware, on October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) establishes Federal government requirements for sustainable acquisition. The purchase of biobased products is expressly cited as one way to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our environment.

USDA is committed to the success of the Executive Order and the BioPreferred Program, for which we have statutory responsibility. President Obama has committed us all to lead the Federal government by example in demonstrating sustainable practices in our day-to-day operations. One important way to lead by example in the green procurement area is for you to urge your Chief Acquisition Officers to support the BioPreferred Program both through direct purchases and in service contracts. I am enclosing a suggested memorandum for you to send to your Chief Acquisition Officer for dissemination. I would greatly appreciate an electronic copy of the final memo you forward to your procurement official. I am also enclosing a copy of the BioPreferred fact sheet I sent to you last year.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Christina Romer
Chairwoman
Council of Economic Advisers
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Last year, I communicated with many cabinet officials regarding the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many have already taken positive actions to make procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with Federal agencies to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 that requires Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 11 2010

The Honorable Ronald Kirk
Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Last year, I communicated with many cabinet officials regarding the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) BioPreferred Program, a governmentwide initiative to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally-friendly biobased products while creating new green jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. Many have already taken positive actions to make procurement professionals aware of their responsibilities to buy biobased products. Additionally, our staff has met with Federal agencies to further explain the program. We appreciate your strong support in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 that requires Federal agencies to give procurement preference to biobased products.

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Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosures

This is a sample letter that could be sent from Cabinet Secretaries to their Chief Acquisition Officers.

Dear Chief Acquisition Officer:

I strongly support the BioPreferred Program, a government-wide effort to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. At the **(cabinet name)**, the BioPreferred Program offers three major benefits: (1) climate change impact reduction; (2) energy and environmental security; and (3) economic development.

This Program is mandated by law and the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Additionally, on October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) establishes Federal government requirements for sustainable acquisition. The purchase of biobased products is expressly cited as one way to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our environment.

I would request that you ensure that (1) all procurement personnel in the **(Cabinet name)** be trained and educated on the importance of this program and the mandatory requirement to purchase and use biobased products; (2) this Program be discussed with each senior level procurement leader and follow up conducted with each; and (3) all **(Cabinet name)** solicitations contain biobased language and clauses. This department is being judged on how well we implement the BioPreferred Program and we have to provide data to show our progress. So as part of this effort I am also asking you to provide me with information on the number and dollar value of solicitations awarded that contain biobased language and/or clauses and the number of contracts that were actually awarded to BioPreferred vendors.

USDA, which is the lead agency for the Federal Government, has designated a total of 42 biobased items (product categories) representing nearly 3,500 individual products. Tools and resources are readily available at www.biopreferred.gov. They include: Biopreferred catalog, model contract templates, free web based training, model green source selection evaluation factors, and procurement forecast with biobased icon.

I will expect all procurement personnel in collaboration with program personnel to support the BioPreferred Program. Please provide me within 30 days your plans to advance the procurement of biobased products.

Signed
Cabinet Secretary

**The BioPreferred Program:
Supporting the President's Energy and Environmental Agenda**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the lead agency for the Federal Government's BioPreferred program, a biobased products initiative demonstrating environmental leadership creating "green" jobs and new markets for farmers, manufacturers and vendors.

A low-cost, high-return venture, the BioPreferred" program offers three major benefits:

- **Climate Change Impact Reduction.** The use of qualifying biobased products reduces the introduction of new fossil carbon into the atmosphere.
- **Energy/Environmental Security.** Biobased products replace petroleum products, helping to increase U.S. energy and environmental security and independence. Many biobased products are sustainable, renewable, and compostable.
- **Economic Development.** Biobased products create jobs by increasing demand for agricultural and forestry materials and by increasing new product development, manufacturing, and ultimately sales.

Section 9002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the 2008 Farm Bill (Public Law 110-234), requires every Federal Agency to give procurement preference to designated items composed of biobased products.

Biobased products are defined as those the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be composed in whole or large part of renewable agricultural or forestry materials. Such products, often made from plant, animal, and marine substances, include items such as cleaners, lubricants, building materials, insulation, roof coatings, and fuel additives as well as a host of other sustainable industrial items that the Federal Government can use.

USDA's goal is to increase Federal procurement of biobased products government wide and to develop Government and public markets through a voluntary consumer labeling program. The draft regulation was published July 31st and will become final in the coming year. Accordingly, USDA tests and evaluates biobased products and designates items for preferred Federal procurement.

Through published regulations, USDA has designated a total of 42 biobased items (product Categories) representing nearly 5,600 individual products. Approximately 2,100 companies, many of which are small businesses, currently offer more than 19,000 biobased products. USDA conducts outreach on behalf of the BioPreferred" program and has developed a series of BioPreferred" tools, such as model contract language, and training videos to assist Federal Agencies and the business community in implementing the program. These tools are available at the BioPreferred" Web site (<http://www.biopreferred.gov>). For further information or technical assistance, please contact Jeffrey Goodman at (202) 401-4747 or Jeffrey.goodman@da.usda.gov.