



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

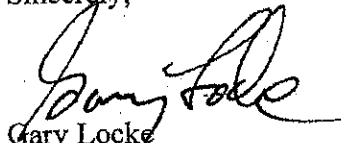
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Federal Government's BioPreferred Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is intended 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.

The Department of Commerce is committed to green procurement and has developed and issued policy promoting a preference for USDA-designated biobased products in accordance with Part 23 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. As a result of our efforts, the Department has received a green status on the Environmental Stewardship Scorecard.

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum submitted to my Chief Acquisition Officer.

Sincerely,



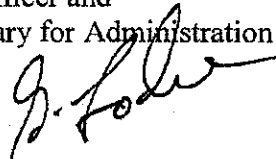
Gary Locke

Enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

MEMORANDUM FOR: Scott Quehl
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

FROM: Gary Locke 

SUBJECT: USDA BioPreferred Program

I strongly support the BioPreferred Program, a Government-wide effort to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. By participating in the BioPreferred Program, the Department of Commerce can address three important efforts: (1) climate-change impact reduction, (2) energy and environmental security, and (3) economic development.

Federal agency participation in this program is mandated by law and the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Additionally, on October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) of the Executive Order 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 request that you ensure that (1) procurement personnel in the Department of Commerce are trained and educated on the importance of this program and the mandatory requirement to purchase and use biobased products, (2) this program is discussed with senior level procurement leaders, and (3) applicable solicitations contain biobased language and clauses. This Department will be judged on how well we implement the BioPreferred Program, and we are required to provide data showing our progress.

The Department of Agriculture, which is the lead agency for the BioPreferred Program, has designated a total of 42 biobased items (product categories) representing nearly 5,600 individual products for Federal procurement. Tools and resources are readily available at www.biopreferred.gov. They include a BioPreferred catalog, model contract templates, free Web-based training, evaluation factors for model green-source selection, and procurement forecasts with biobased icon.

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