Exhibit A
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, declare:

1. I am Jesse LaFlamme, I am the owner and CEO of Pete and Gerry’s Organics LLC, based in Monroe, New Hampshire.

2. Pete and Gerry’s Organic Eggs is the #1 selling organic egg brand in the country, and is sold in more than 9,600 retailers. We produce our eggs through a network of more than 100 independent family farms in 12 states. In 2003 the company was the first egg farm in the country to earn the Certified Humane designation, and 2013 the company became the first animal agriculture business to earn B-Corp status.
3. Animal welfare standards that include outdoor access, allowing animals to engage in natural behaviors, and other best animal husbandry practices are a main tenet of the organic foods production system that distinguishes organic from other agricultural production methods. The practices codified in the final rule were over a decade in the making. *Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices*, 82 Fed. Reg. at 7042-92 (published January 19, 2017) (“final rule”). The rulemaking was guided by the transparent regulatory process mandated by Congress in the Organic Foods Production Act. This unique regulatory process allows farmers, consumers, suppliers, retailers, and all entities of the organic industry to have a seat at the table in developing the USDA organic standards.

4. I have presented testimony at public meetings conducted by the National Organic Standards Board. (“NOSB”).

5. The organic industry overall has experienced double digit growth annually over the last five years, achieving approximately $43 billion in sales in 2015. The organic livestock and dairy sector represents approximately 17% of total organic sales and the organic dairy sector alone represents the second-largest and fastest-growing food segment in the industry.

6. The final *Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices* rule gives clarity for my business, all organic producers, and those seeking to enter the organic market on what practices are required to meet the animal welfare standards in order to be certified organic. A lack of clarity led to inconsistent practices amongst the industry. We strongly endorse the new rule, and feel it is critical for the integrity of the USDA Organic Program.
7. Consumer trust and confidence in the USDA Organic seal are the foundation of our industry. The decision to become certified organic is voluntary, and meeting the high standards that consumers expect from the organic seal maintains a healthy and strong organic marketplace. A recent Consumer Reports survey found that 83% of consumers who frequently purchase organic products believe that organic eggs should come from hens that have access to the outdoors.

8. We believe that the failure to implement the final rule, and its welfare provisions, will lead to irremediable damage to consumer trust in the USDA Organic seal because it will fall behind the consumer’s expectations for egg production and thus our farmers will suffer severe financial setbacks.

9. We also believe that a flat refusal to implement, or continued and inexplicable delay will irremediably damage the public’s trust and reliance on the National Organic Standards Board, a public-private partnership in which our industry has placed great reliance and faith.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this _12_ day of September 2017.

Jesse Laflamme,
CEO, Pete and Gerry’s Organics LLC
Exhibit B
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, declare:

1. I am the Chief Executive Officer of the National Co+op Grocers. This statement is based on my personal knowledge and upon information and belief.

2. National Co+op Grocers (“NCG”) is a business services cooperative for retail food co-ops located throughout the United States. We represent 146 food co-ops operating over 200 stores in 38 states with combined annual sales over $2 billion and over 1.3 million consumer-owners.
3. NCG helps unify natural food co-ops in order to optimize operational and marketing
resources, strengthen purchasing power, and ultimately offer more value to natural food
co-op owners and shoppers everywhere.

4. Through its partnerships with organic advocacy groups, NCG frequently presents expert
opinion testimony at public meetings conducted by the National Organic Standards
Board. (“NOSB”).

5. Our association, and its members frequently submit comments on proposed rules issued
by the USDA’s National Organic Program.

6. NCG prioritizes implementing strong organic standards, because strong organic standards
are imperative to the success of our business. Consumer confidence in the USDA
Certified Organic seal is foundational to our industry. NCG recognizes organic as the
gold standard of consumer food labels, because it represents a federally regulated
guarantee that food has been produced in a transparent and sustainable way. On average,
certified organic product comprises roughly 40% of NCG retail grocery stores’ total
annual sales.

7. Our customers expect organic products to meet or exceed the organic standards,
including animal welfare provisions for consistent, meaningful outdoor access and indoor
space that allows animals to express natural behaviors. If the organic standards are not
met, and thereby our customers lose faith in the organic standards and animal welfare
provisions therein, this would be an irreparable harm to all cooperative stores that sell
organic products.

8. We are familiar with and supported the final rule entitled, *Organic Livestock and Poultry
9. When USDA issued its second delay of the final rule, we submitted a letter to Paul Lewis, Director, Standards Division at the USDA National Organic Program, that said, “While the vast majority of organic producers already adhere to strong animal welfare standards, this rule closes existing loopholes and levels the playing field for organic producers, ultimately ensuring that USDA Certified Organic can continue to meet evolving consumer expectations...Any further delay [of the final rule] could significantly erode consumer trust in the organic label, which is the basis not only for organic’s double-digit sales growth, but also fosters a unique, consumer-driven marketplace that allows producers to earn an economically significant premium.”

10. NCG continues to support immediate implementation of the final rule.

11. Withdrawing this final rule or continuing to delay its implementation harms and will continue to harm NCG and could lead to profound disruption to the marketplace for certified organic products by irretrievably damaging consumer trust in the USDA organic seal.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 13th day of September 2017.

Robynn Shrader, National Co+op Grocers
Exhibit C
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Kyla Smith declare:

1. I am the Board of Directors Chair of the Accredited Certifiers Association. This statement is based on my personal knowledge and upon information and belief.

2. The Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc. (“ACA”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization created to benefit the accredited organic certifier community and the organic industry. Our membership includes 53 accredited certification agencies.

3. Each of our members undergoes a rigorous accreditation review by the USDA that establishes each member’s expertise and competence in the area of organic standards and certification systems. The federal accreditation requirements are set forth in 7 C.F.R. Part 205, Subpart F “Accreditation of Certifying Agents.”
4. ACA’s primary mission is to ensure the integrity and consistency of organic certification in the United States. Specific purposes include, developing uniform criteria for implementation of the USDA National Organic Program, certifier training, support and being a forum for discussion of issues impacting organic certification.

5. Our members are the front-line decision makers for implementation and application of organic production and handling standards across the entirety of the supply chain – from production to retail sale. We also address many questions from the purchasers of certified organic products throughout the supply chain, all the way to retail consumers.

6. Our members receive direct feedback from producers and handlers and purchasers of organic products.

7. Our association and its members believe that producers, handlers and consumers trust the USDA organic seal as an assurance of product identity in principal part because of consistent application of the organic requirements by accredited certifying agents in the field.

8. Our association, and its members frequently present expert opinion testimony at public meetings conducted by the National Organic Standards Board. (“NOSB”).

9. Our association, and its members frequently submit comments on proposed rules issued by the USDA’s National Organic Program.


11. These two publications captured the work product of many years of effort by the organic community and the National Organic Standards Board.

12. Among the key issues resolved by the final rule was the access to outdoors for poultry animals, whether grown for meat or eggs. The correct application of the existing standards on this point had been a source of some inconsistency amongst our members primarily due to an unfortunate enforcement decision issued by the USDA early in the history of the National Organic Program.
13. ACA submitted detailed comments to the proposed rule in July 2016 and were supportive of the publication of the final rule in January 2017.

14. At the time of July 2016 comment submission ACA said, “The level of detail contained in the Standard will permit more consistent enforcement, and provide operators with the management information they need to meet the requirements.”

15. When USDA issued its first delay of the final rule the ACA submitted a letter to recently confirmed USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue that said,

   a. “Consistent enforcement of the USDA Organic Regulations is crucial to success of the National Organic Program. It creates and a fair and level playing field for organic farmers and handlers. These two components translate into consumer trust in the USDA Organic label. That is why the National Organic Program’s completion of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule, published on January 19 of this year, has been strongly applauded by the majority of Accredited Certifying Agents and the farms they certify.”

   b. “While the new rule was originally scheduled to go into effect on March 20, 2017, a sixty-day delay has resulted in a new effective date of May 19, 2017. The National Organic Standard Board recently passed a unanimous resolution in support of implementing this new rule without further delay. The ACA represents a wide variety of certification agencies, including many of the largest and most knowledgeable certifiers of organic livestock, and we support and echo this request.”

16. ACA continues to support immediate implementation of the final rule.

17. ACA and its members have spent considerable staff time and financial resources to participate in the multi-year process before the NOSB regarding this rulemaking and to prepare for the implementation of the final rule.

18. ACA and its members have spent thousands of hours over many years in conversations with producers, handlers and purchasers of certified organic products throughout the supply chain, including retail consumers, to develop our understanding and expertise in order to bring consistency and assurance to the organic certification process.
19. Withdrawing this final rule or continuing to delay its implementation harms and will continue to harm ACA and its members and could lead to profound disruption to the marketplace for certified organic products by irretrievably damaging consumer trust in the USDA organic seal.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 12th day of September 2017.

Kyla Smith
Accredited Certifiers Association
EXHIBIT D

DECLARATIONS SIGNED BY FORMER CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Robert Anderson, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). I served during year(s) 1996 - 2001 and served as the board chair from 1997 - 2000. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program ("NOP").


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15th day of October 2019.

Robert B Anderson
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Case No. 1:17-cv-01875-RMC

DECLARATION OF HARRIET BEHAR, IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Harriet Behar, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am currently a member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I have served during year(s) Jan. 2016-Jan. 2020 and currently serve as the board chair. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I have served on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this __17__ day of October 2019.

Harriet Behar  
Chair  
National Organic Standards Board
DECLARATION OF DAVE CARTER - 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION,
       Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, et al.,
       Defendants.

Civil Case No. 1:17-cv-01875-RMC

DECLARATION OF DAVE CARTER, IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Dave Carter, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 2001-2006 and served as the board chair in 2003. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 16th day of October 2019.

[Signature]

Dave Carter
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Tom Chapman, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a currently a member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). I have served during year(s) 2015-2020 and served as the board chair in 2016-2018. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program ("NOP").


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I have served on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 17th day of October 2019.

Tom Chapman
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Tracy Favre, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 2012 - 2017 and served as the board chair in 2016-2017. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15th day of October 2019.

[Signature]

Tracy Favre
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Barry Flamm declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). I served during year(s) ___________ and served as the board chair in 2012. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program ("NOP").


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 18th day of October 2019.

Signed by electronic confirmation

Barry Flamm
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Daniel G. Giacomini, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). I served during year(s) (Jan) 2006 – (Jan) 2011 and served as the board chairperson in 2010. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program ("NOP").


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 18th day of October 2019.

Daniel G. Giacomini
Former Chairperson
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Tracy Miedema, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 2007 - 2012 and served as the board chair in 2011. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15th day of October 2019.

Tracy Miedema
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Jeff Moyer, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) _2006 till 2011 and served as the board chair in _2010_. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 18 day of October 2019.

Jeff Moyer
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Jim Riddle, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 2001-2006 and served as the board chair in 2005. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15th day of October 2019.

Jim Riddle
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, J. Michael Sligh, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 1992 - 1997 and served as the board chair in 1992-1995. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 18 day of October 2019.

J. Michael Sligh
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Mac Stone, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I served during year(s) 2011-2016 and served as the board chair in 2014. I have continued to follow the development of organic policy and the work of the National Organic Program (“NOP”).


4. I am also aware that the Rescission states “[T]he OFPA does not require the NOP to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10778 (March 13, 2018)

5. The quoted statement is inconsistent with my experience and knowledge of the USDA’s past practices, with regard to pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB. In my experience any action by the NOP or Secretary that required public notice and comment, whether guidance or legislative rulemakings, was conducted solely in the aftermath of consultation with the NOSB.
6. During the time I was on the NOSB, the organic community of stakeholders and the NOP agreed that Congress intended organic livestock production practices to reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic medicines and production aids by development of organic standards that required livestock be managed as part of the whole system of the organic farming and handling created by the OFPA. For livestock, an organic livestock system plan is required that emphasizes preventive care and includes among other requirements, space for the fullest expression of an animal’s natural behavior, reduced stress, and access to the outdoors consistent with that animal’s well being.

7. Neither I, nor any other board member that I can recall, nor any USDA staff, has taken the position that Congress intended the NOSB recommend standards to the Secretary regarding organic livestock care only if the recommendation was directly related to the list of three prohibited livestock healthcare practices appearing in the OFPA.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 16 day of October 2019.

Mac Stone
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
EXHIBIT A

DECLARATION AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF
DR. TOMISLAV VUKINA
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Tomislav Vukina, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated.

2. I have a PhD in Economics and am the Principal at Vukina et al. Consulting and hold an academic appointment at North Carolina State University. See Exhibit A (Curriculum Vitae).

3. The areas of my expertise related to this case are poultry industry economics and economics of animal welfare.


5. This Report is cited on pgs. 23, 69, 102, 107 of the agency’s Regulatory Impact Analysis and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (January 2017).


DECLARATION OF TOMISLAV VUKINA- 1

7. To analyze the economic arguments I also reviewed the agency’s *Regulatory Impact Analysis and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis* (January 2017) ("OLPP RIA") offered in support of the OLPP as well as the agency’s *Regulatory Impact Analysis Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices: Withdrawal* offered in support of the Rescission less than a year later. ("Withdrawal RIA")

8. Based on the review and the calculations submitted herewith, I conclude the estimated benefits figures arising from implementation of the OLPP that appear in the Rescission RIA and Rescission, are incorrect.

9. The principal error made by the agency was the application of straight-line depreciation to the estimated benefits of the OLPP.

10. I am very familiar with enterprise budgeting and cost-benefit analysis tools and in my experience the use of straight-line depreciation in calculating estimated benefits is inconsistent with standard practice of enterprise budgeting and/or cost-benefits analysis.

11. Exhibit B to this Declaration is a summary of the review I conducted of the economic analysis appearing in the Rescission RIA and Rescission, with an accompanying spreadsheet demonstrating the calculations discussed in the review.

12. I used the agency’s updated cost estimates, its three relevant market scenarios about how the industry is going to respond to proposed regulation and the same annual growth projections for organic eggs of 12.7 percent used in the Rescission RIA and Rescission, and used the formula set forth in OLPP RIA at fn. 94 to calculate estimated benefits, except I did not depreciate the estimated benefits using straight line depreciation.

13. As discussed in the review, and contrary to the findings in the Rescission RIA and Rescission, the correctly calculated estimated benefits of the OLPP easily exceeded the revised estimated costs of implementing the OLPP under the scenarios selected by the agency.

DECLARATION OF TOMISLAV VUKINA- 2
14. In addition, when applying the formula set forth in the OLPP RIA at fn. 94 to calculate the estimated benefits and using the updated estimated costs as was done in the Rescission RIA and Rescission I could not replicate the results obtained by the agency.

15. Nothing in the Rescission RIA and Rescission sets forth the formula or computational methodology used by the agency. The “Benefits+Cost Workbook” the agency posted online in December contains the results of calculations but does not disclose the underlying formula. In addition, based on all enclosed withdrawal materials, it was impossible to figure out whether the projected period of the analysis is 13 years or 15 years and what year was taken as the base year in the calculations of the stream of present values.

16. It is not possible to fully analyze the calculations in the “Benefits+Cost Workbook” without disclosure of the formula or computational methodology.

17. In my opinion the calculations conducted in support of the Rescission and Rescission RIA do not support the conclusion that the OLPP is economically unjustified.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 21 day of October 2019.

[Signature]

Tomislav Vukina, PhD
1513 Shadowood Lane
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612
TOMISLAV VUKINA

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Phone: (919) 781-6902; Cell: (919) 274-4612

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E-mail: tom_vukina@ncsu.edu

EDUCATION

1991 UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, USA
Ph.D., Economics – Marine Resources.

1982 UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB, Croatia
M.A., Economics.

1978 UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB, Croatia
B.A., Economics.

RESEARCH FIELDS

• Economic Organization of Agriculture
• Economics of Incentives and Information
• Environmental and Resource Economics

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

North Carolina State University - Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
2002-present Professor
1997-2002 Associate Professor
1993-1997 Assistant Professor

University of Zagreb - Graduate School of Economics and Business; Croatia
Fall 2007 Visiting Professor - Fulbright scholar

Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University – Department of Economics and Natural Resources; Copenhagen, Denmark.
Fall 1999 Visiting Professor - Lektor

University of Rhode Island - Department of Resource Economics
1993 Visiting Assistant Professor
1992 Postdoctoral Fellow
1988-1991 Graduate Assistant
TOMISLAV VUKINA

Institute for Developing Countries - Zagreb; Croatia
1983-1986 Research Associate

Center for Economic Development - Zagreb; Croatia
1978-1983 Research Assistant

AWARDS

- J. William Fulbright Lecturing/Research Award to Croatia, Fall 2007 semester.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles:


TOMISLAV VUKINA


TOMISLAV VUKINA


TOMISLAV VUKINA


Books, Chapters in Books, Research Bulletins:


Extension Publications, Business & Trade Periodicals:


TOMISLAV VUKINA


TOMISLAV VUKINA


Conference Papers Abstracts and Proceedings:


Conference Papers w/o Abstracts or Proceedings:


Vukina, T. “Organization of Large Scale Animal Agriculture: Contracting the Production of Broilers in Croatia.” IAMO Forum 2018, Large Scale Agriculture – For Profit or Society? June 27-29, Halle (Saale), Germany.


TOMISLAV VUKINA

GRANTS


• J. William Fulbright follow-on grant to Croatia, June 2010. $5,000.


• International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), 2008-2009 Short-Term Travel Grant for Croatia: Health Insurance Reform in Post-Socialist Croatia: An Analysis of Asymmetric Information Problems.”


TOMISLAV VUKINA


TEACHING AND ADVISING

Undergraduate Courses:


Graduate Courses:

- Graduate School of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb: Methodology of Economics, Fall 2007.
TOMISLAV VUKINA

- 095918 - Royal Agricultural University, Copenhagen: “Natural Resource Economics” (Master’s level), Fall 1999.

**Master’s Committees Chair:**


**Ph.D. Committees Chair:**

- Shuyang Wang, 2019: “Essays on the Principal-Agent Problems in Agricultural Contracts.” (co-chaired with Zheng Li)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Participant in the MRF project NE1942: “Enhancing Poultry Production Systems through Emerging Technologies and Husbandry Practices” for the period October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024.
- Participant in the MRF project NE 1442: “Poultry Production Systems and Well-being: Sustainability for Tomorrow” for the period October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2019.
- Invited participant, Agricultural Research Connections Workshop; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi/Naivasha, Kenya, July 21-26, 2013.
TOMISLAV VUKINA

- Member of Scientific Committee, Beeronomics 2013 - The Economics of Beer and Brewing, The University of York, United Kingdom, September 18-21, 2013.
- Member of the International Programme Committee, 2nd Beeronomics Conference. The Economics of Beer and Brewing, Freising, Germany, September 21-24, 2011.
- Member of the International Editorial Board, Croatian Economic Survey.
- Associate Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (January 2002-December 2005, Volumes 84-87.
- Member of the North Carolina State University, College of Agriculture and Live Sciences Research Committee (2001-2004).
- Member of the Graduate Council, Graduate School, University of Rhode Island (1989-1990).
EXHIBIT 9
ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, et al.

Defendants.

Civil Case No: 1:17-cv-01875-RMC

DECLARATION OF DON FOWLER
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S
SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
I, Don Fowler, declare as follows:

1. I reside at 1357 Carpers Farm Way, Vienna, VA 22182 where I have resided since January 2000. I have personal knowledge of, and, if called upon as a witness, I could and would testify willingly to the statements contained herein.

2. I am a member of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). In 2004, I became a member of Animal Welfare Institute (“AWI”) because I read about their work and I believe in AWI’s mission to reduce the suffering of animals at the hands of humans and hoped that AWI would represent my interest in improving the welfare of all animals.

3. My primary interest as a member of AWI and in regard to the matter of farm animal welfare is to end the use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics, rough handling and mistreatment by workers and to make sure farm animals’ lives are as stress free as possible. I am concerned about farm animal wellbeing and treatment. During my time as a member of AWI, I have become active in signing petitions relating to farm animal issues, and have contributed to AWI’s campaigns. I enjoy visiting with and photographing the farm animals at Poplar Springs animal sanctuary in Poolesville, MD.

4. I am now retired, but I was formerly a skilled tradesman and worked for the American Society of Appraisers. Many years ago, I was employed as a farm hand, and worked at caring for cattle and horses. In addition to being a member of AWI, I am a volunteer for Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) and Pets Bring Joy, and was treasurer for the Wildlife Rescue League. I also make frequent visits to Poplar Springs Animal Sanctuary. I have attended the national Animal Rights Conference, where I listen to speakers discuss a range of animal welfare issues.
5. I am aware of the USDA’s prior plan to develop the proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule. I am aware of the current standards as applied to farm animals, and what the OLPP will do to change these standards. I was able to follow the progress of the OLPP rule because I receive action alerts and press releases from AWI which I depend on and trust to represent my interest in farm animal welfare. AWI notified me about the new rule’s effect on different farm animals’ health and welfare.

6. I purchase and consume dairy products and would continue to purchase and consume dairy products that have been certified organic by the USDA because the NOP is supposed to ensure higher animal welfare standards. A part of the OLPP rule I was particularly interested in was the changes made to the standards that apply to dairy cattle. Specifically, it improved the standards relating to housing, pain relief and euthanasia, transport, and slaughter. The withdrawal of this rule directly and irreparably harms my interests because the current animal welfare standards in the organic regulations are not only less stringent, but they are unevenly and inconsistently applied between different facilities. This inconsistency results in highly variable conditions for animals raised under the National Organics Program, which means the Organic label on one product does not mean the same thing it does on another. I don’t think this is a fair practice and it puts the burden on me as a consumer to do additional research about animal welfare standards. When I shop for milk products especially, I look for the organic label, but because of inconsistencies in the application of standards, I cannot trust the Organic label. Implementation of the OLPP remedies this problem and my injury. Most people, including myself, are busy when they are shopping and they don’t have time to research the producers of these products to determine whether or not they meet certain standards. The Organic label, if the standards
are clear enough to be applied consistently, will be a way for me to look once at the product, understand what it means and believe that those standards are met. To continue to buy these products, I need the labels to mean something, especially because organic products are usually higher priced than non-organic products.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on this 12 day of May, 2018.

[Signature]

Mr. Don Fowler
ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, et al.

Defendants.

Civil Case No: 1:17-cv-01875-RMC

DECLARATION OF DIANE HOPKINS PhD IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
I, Diane Hopkins, PhD, declare as follows:

1. I reside at 1357 Carpers Farm Way, Vienna, VA 22182 where I have resided since January 2000. I have personal knowledge of, and, if called upon as a witness, I could and would testify willingly to the statements contained herein.

2. I am a member of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). In 2004, I became a member of Animal Welfare Institute (“AWI”) because I believed in AWI’s mission to reduce the pain and fear inflicted on animals by humans and hoped that it would represent my interest to improve the welfare of animals, including farm animals.

3. My primary interest as a member of AWI is to oppose anything that would cause harm or suffering to animals, like confinement. During my time as a member of AWI, I have become active in signing petitions relating to farm animal issues, and have contributed regularly to AWI’s campaigns.

4. I am currently retired, but before that I worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to being a member of AWI, I am a member of Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART), Pets Bring Joy, and Wildlife Rescue League. I also make frequent visits to Poplar Springs Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville, MD, and witnessing first-hand a farm animal in a natural setting.

5. I am aware of the efforts to develop the proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule. I followed the promulgation of the OLPP rule through notifications I received from AWI, which I depend upon to represent my interest in farm animal welfare. AWI notified me about the rule’s effect on farm animal health and welfare, and because of their efforts, I followed the progression of the rule closely.
When I saw the action alert from AWI about the government delaying and then withdrawing the rule, I was very upset. I was disappointed especially when I learned that the OLPP was to be withdrawn, because I was hoping animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program (NOP) would be strengthened.

6. I am interested in standards under the NOP because I seek to improve the standards for animals raised for human consumption. I have researched the current standards under the Organics Program. When I read “access to outdoors” in the current regulations, I expect that to mean access to vegetation, soil and open air for all animals in the facility. I am aware that the current regulations for layer hens allow for “access to the outdoors” to sometimes mean an enclosed concrete porch that is not large enough for even half of the population of the facility to use. Currently, there is no way for me or other consumers to know, without doing significant research, whether the Organic Label on a product indicates true outdoor access or not. The withdrawal of the OLPP rule directly and irreparably harms my interests because the current animal welfare measures in the organic regulations are unevenly and inconsistently applied from farm to farm, resulting in highly variable conditions for animals raised under the NOP. Because of these inconsistent standards, I worry about the welfare and health of animals raised under the NOP.

7. I purchase and consume or seek to purchase and consume organic dairy products, and I hoped that the OLPP rule would be implemented to improve the welfare standards of cattle under the NOP. I was enthusiastic about the promulgation of the OLPP rule because of the improvements it made with respect to pain relief and euthanasia, housing requirements, transport, and slaughter, which applies to the dairy cattle that
produce products I purchase. The rule also contained new transport and slaughter requirements that I found acceptable as minimum standards for the products I choose to purchase and consume. I am injured by the delay and withdrawal of the OLPP rule because these improved standards will not be implemented. Because these new standards will not be implemented, I am injured because my interest in the improved welfare and health of dairy cattle under the NOP is negatively affected. Without these new standards, our family is unlikely to purchase dairy products.

8. I am unlikely to purchase organic animal products because I cannot trust that the label represents consistent and accurate information. Implementation of the OLPP rule remedies this problem. I would, or would be more likely to purchase organic livestock or poultry products if the OLPP rule was implemented because I could trust that the higher welfare standards were consistently applied.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on this 12 day of May, 2018.

[Signature]

Diane Hopkins, Ph.D.
EXHIBIT 8
I, Dena Jones, declare as follows:

1. The facts set forth in this declaration are based on my personal knowledge. If I am called as a witness in these proceedings, I could and would testify competently to these facts.

2. I am the Director of the Farm Animal Program of the Animal Welfare Institute (“AWI”). I have served as lead of this department since September 2009. Previously, I worked in farm animal advocacy at the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Farm Sanctuary, Humane Farming Association, and the Animal Protection Institute. Before that, I earned my master’s in Animals in Public Policy at Tufts University, School of Veterinary Medicine. As the Director of the Farm Animal Department of AWI, I am responsible for overseeing this program.

3. AWI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Washington, D.C. AWI has more than 20,000 members, many of whom are specifically interested in the well-being of farm animals. Members
finance AWI’s activities and rely on AWI to express their collective views and protect their collective interests in animal welfare.

4. Founded in 1951, AWI’s mission is to reduce animal suffering caused by people. Since its inception, AWI has pursued regulatory, legislative, and judicial initiatives to improve the treatment of farm animals. To accomplish these goals, AWI expends resources on domestic farm animal matters through advocacy, research, education, litigation, and grass-roots activities. AWI has spent considerable time and resources on behalf of its members, advocating for implementation of better, more consistent standards for the millions of animals raised under the National Organic Program each year. The USDA’s decisions to serially delay, withdraw, and not provide adequate procedure in revoking the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule perceptibly impair AWI’s ability to continue its advocacy, research, and education, and requires the continued expenditure of resources it expected to spend on other farm animal campaigns.

5. AWI’s farm animal program consists of three full-time staff who work to reduce suffering of animals raised for human consumption. AWI also employs government affairs staff who work on legislative matters relating to farm animal welfare. The farm animal program helps AWI achieve its mission of reducing animal suffering by advocating for improved standards for farm animals through state and federal regulatory and legislative matters, researching the effects of current farm animal policies on the welfare of animals, advocating for increased transparency in the labeling of animal food products, and educating and rallying our members about farm animal welfare matters.

6. To achieve its goal of reducing farm animal suffering, AWI actively participates and expends resources on behalf of its members in the regulatory process associated with livestock and poultry standards. This work includes AWI’s involvement in National Organic Program
(NOP) regulatory matters. For NOP rulemakings, AWI has participated on behalf of its members in the entire process of the OLPP rulemaking. This participation has included advocating for improved animal welfare standards in these regulations, researching the effects of regulations on farm animals, and educating its members about the effects of said regulations. In the past, AWI has participated in National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meetings on its members’ behalf on issues relating to animal welfare. For example, AWI has submitted six comments advocating for increased welfare standards, testified at four NOSB meetings, and for a period of time, participated as a member of an advisory working group to the Livestock Committee of the NOSB. In 2011, the NOSB submitted recommendations to the USDA about animal welfare standards under the NOP. In response, the USDA developed the OLPP rule to address these recommendations. AWI submitted four substantive comments on the OLPP Rule on behalf of its members, which varied over time due to changing circumstances, but ranged from advocating for development of the rule, improvement of standards in the rule to full, and immediate implementation.\(^1\) During this timeframe, AWI also rallied its members and supporters to submit comments to the docket three times.\(^2\) AWI has expended significant resources on this work in support of its organizational interest and on behalf of its members, and continues to do so today.

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\(^1\) Animal Welfare Institute, Farm Animal Policy Efforts “Miscellaneous” and “On Farm” at [https://awionline.org/content/farm-animal-policy-efforts](https://awionline.org/content/farm-animal-policy-efforts) (providing comments to the USDA on organic welfare standards since 2010).

7. Many of AWI’s members are concerned about the well-being of animals raised for human consumption and are interested in policy efforts to improve their living conditions. Some of these members also purchase or seek to purchase organic products because they believe there are better welfare conditions for animals raised under the NOP. AWI educates its members about the standards of care required for animals raised under the NOP by using social media, researching, writing, and publishing reports, and using its website to communicate to its members. Since the OLPP rule will not go into effect and the NOP will not guarantee consistent standards across the board, AWI expects it will expend more resources counseling its members about which products meet minimum animal welfare standards.

8. AMS’s continued delays and withdrawal of the OLPP rule harmed and continue to harm AWI and its members. Before the OLPP rule’s withdrawal, AWI planned to work on campaigns relating to ritual slaughter of livestock, improving slaughter conditions of livestock and poultry, improving the conditions livestock face during transport, and improving the standards for poultry growth under the organic program. Instead, AWI has been forced to mitigate its injury by diverting substantial resources toward advocacy, research, litigation and educating its members about the impacts of the withdrawal of the OLPP rule.

9. Initially, when the rule was delayed, AWI educated its members about the effect of the delay. This entailed drafting action alerts, conducting research, and partnering with the ASPCA and Farm Forward to produce a report about the OLPP Rule.³ This report, and notifying and educating its members about the report and the delay, required expenditure of time and funds meant

for other farm animal project areas. The report exposed loopholes that many large organic producers exploit, resulting in a lower standard of care for animals and consumer confusion about what the Certified Organic Label guarantees.

10. When the USDA delayed the rule for the second time, AWI had to divert significant time and resources drafting a statement to notify its members about the rule’s delay.\(^4\) AWI was forced to divert resources again to comment on the “voting” rulemaking where the agency polled stakeholders about whether to delay, implement, modify, or withdraw the OLPP Rule.\(^5\) Then, when the USDA published notice about its decision to withdraw the rule, AWI was forced to divert even more resources and time toward commenting on the withdrawal on its members’ behalf and issuing a statement to notify its members and the public.\(^6\) AWI even attempted to extend the comment period to be sure that all of its members were alerted to the withdrawal and to complete the extensive research necessary to respond to the USDA’s action.\(^7\)

11. When the rule was withdrawn, AWI had to divert even more resources towards mitigating its injury. AWI continued to educate its members about the effect of the rule withdrawal and drafted a report about the connection between farm animal health and welfare to demonstrate


\(^7\) AWI, Request for Extension of Withdrawal Comment Period, https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS-NOP-15-0012-57208. This request was denied by the USDA.
that the USDA’s position that it could regulate health and not welfare was contrary to science and its own past positions. This report required AWI to expend significant program resources on researching animal health and animal welfare and demonstrating the connection between the two. AWI also hired Kenneth Litwak, DVM, Ph.D., to assist on writing the report to educate its members and the public.

12. Overall, since the rule has been delayed and withdrawn, AWI has expended in excess of 1000 staff and consultant hours responding to and mitigating its injury. AWI also must now expend resources it expected to spend on other farm animal campaigns educating its members about how the organic program will not have the consistent standards expected to be implemented, which is directly traceable to the USDA’s failure to comply with its own statute, OFPA.

13. As part of its mission to reduce animal suffering, AWI also expends resources and advocates on behalf of its members regarding the necessity of consistent standards from farm to farm to ensure animal welfare. Unfortunately, because the current vague standards under the NOP are unevenly applied from farmer to farmer and do not address many animal critical care issues, AWI has difficulty determining what organic products to endorse to its members who purchase or seek to purchase dairy, eggs, meat, or poultry products because it is difficult to determine how the animal was raised. For example, AWI and its members sincerely believe that access to the outdoors for laying hens is necessary for the health and well-being of the bird. Some AWI members seek to purchase eggs from producers which provide outdoor access for their hens, but because of the ambiguity in the existing NOP regulations, true access to the outdoors is not always provided,

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despite the fact that it appears to be required. This inconsistency in organic production practices leads to inconsistent products in the marketplace and degrades AWI’s ability and interest in educating and directing concerned parties to organic products from animals that actually receive outdoor access including soil and vegetation. The inconsistent and unevenly applied standards under the current organic regulations were remedied by clarifications made in the OLPP Rule.

14. The serial delay, withdrawal, and lack of adequate procedure in revoking the OLPP Rule harmed and continues to harm AWI and its members’ interests, has drained its resources, and generally makes AWI’s work more difficult. None of these actions were taken in anticipation of litigation. A judgment on the merits redresses AWI’s injuries.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed this 15th day of May 2018.

Dena Jones

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9 Organic Report at 19. Some certified organic egg producers provide outdoor access to hens by allowing them onto enclosed, concrete porches.
EXHIBIT 11
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Eric Pierce declare:

1. I am employed as a VP of Business Insights by New Hope Network, owner of the Nutrition Business Journal.

2. The Nutrition Business Journal ("NBJ") is a research, publishing and consulting company serving the nutrition, natural products and alternative health care industries.

3. Nutrition and natural products include, but are not limited to, dietary supplements, herbs & botanicals, vitamins & minerals, natural & organic foods and natural personal care.

4. NBJ has worked with the Organic Trade Association since 2007 to conduct its annual Organic Industry Survey ("OIS").

5. The OIS is an often cited, premier annual report on the state of the U.S. organic marketplace.

6. The organic industry survey model was created using a variety of data sources that reflect sales data for the calendar year prior to the year of issuance of the report. For example, the 2017 OIS report is based on data gathered on calendar year 2016. The OIS of manufacturers is an important data set, but is only part of the data that goes into the final report.

7. Data are compiled from multiple additional sources. A focus is placed on obtaining and reviewing wholesale sales figures, in key organic product categories, e.g., beverages,
condiments, supplements, dairy, meat, eggs etc., and includes data from the various sales
channels, e.g., natural food stores, conventional grocery, farmers’ markets, etc. Export
data are examined and employment and other related industry performance measures are
included to increase the accuracy of the OIS.

8. Published data on the organic industry market size, market growth history, product
breakdowns and other areas including private label are considered. Secondary sources
including Natural Foods Merchandiser’s annual industry survey, public company
financial filings, industry expert interviews and media reports are also utilized.

9. Data from the prior calendar year are typically gathered and analyzed in February and
March of the succeeding year because much of the year-end data reports cannot be
compiled until the calendar year is completed. The final OIS is typically issued in the
month of May the following year.

10. Last year’s OIS (published May 2017) concluded the 2016 growth rate for organic food
sales overall was approximately 8.4%. See 2017 Report at p. 3 ("the 2017 Report")

11. The 2017 Report concluded a growth rate of 6.6% for the dairy and egg category in 2016,
upon sales that comprised approximately 15% of the total market for organic food. See
2017 Report at p. 21 ("the 2017 Report")

12. The 2017 Report forecast an overall growth rate of 9.4% for organic food for calendar

13. The initial assessments of the 2017 data are just now available.

14. The growth in the overall organic marketplace in 2017, based on the first analysis of 2017
data, is approximately 6% to 7%.

15. The annual growth in the organic dairy and egg category in 2017 is initially estimated at
1.7%. The dairy and egg category for 2017 is estimated to have the lowest sales growth
rate of any category and the lowest growth rate for the category since the recession
declines observed in 2009.

16. The dairy and egg category is initially estimated to have added the fewest new dollars of
any organic food category in 2017, despite being the third largest category of sales in
terms of dollar values.

Declaration of Eric Pierce

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17. The initially estimated growth rate for organic overall declined by approximately 30% and the decline for dairy and eggs is approximately 74%.

18. The downward pressure on the dairy and egg category is significantly greater than other categories and the steeper decline, which was not experienced by other categories, correlates to the period of regulatory inaction on the OLPP.

Dated this 5th day of March 2018.

[Signature]

Eric Pierce
New Hope Network, owner of Nutrition Business Journal

Declaration of Eric Pierce
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Jeff Moyer, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am employed as the Executive Director at Rodale Institute, where I am responsible for all programs for the Institute.

3. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). I began a term on the “NOSB” in January 2006 and was elected to the chair position for the 2010 term, and left my position on the board in January 2011.

4. Congress created the NOSB to “assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA,” 7 USC §6518(a), and directed the Secretary: “shall establish an organic certification program … and shall consult with the NOSB.” 7 USC §6503(a)

5. To discharge these duties the Secretary and the NOSB use a formal procedure to identify and place policy matters before the board for consideration, including the use of an annual work plan.
6. Any matter placed before the NOSB may result in a final recommendation regarding the matter from the board. Each final recommendation of the board is considered, debated and voted on in public session and officially recorded.

7. A key role of the board, and particularly the Chair, is to ensure the organic policy recommendations forwarded to the Secretary increase and never degrade the public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA’s organic seal. This trust has been developed and maintained by years of robust, collaborative, and transparently adduced administrative records. Such records include extensive public, academic, and industry input, spirited and informed debate among board members, and carefully vetted written recommendations upon which the Secretary has always based its rulemaking decisions.

8. I cannot recall that the Secretary initiated any rulemaking during my time on the board or as its chair, whether a proposed, interim or final rule, to create or amend existing organic standards except when based on receipt of a formal recommendation from the NOSB.

9. During my time on the NOSB, including my time as Chairperson the well-settled practice and common understanding was that the sections of the OFPA referenced above required collaboration between the Secretary and the NOSB on every policy question that might ultimately lead to rulemaking. In fact, every organic-related rulemaking of which I am familiar was based on the work and formal recommendations of the NOSB.

10. A failure to formally consult the NOSB before initiating organic-related rulemaking would be inconsistent with my experience of the process followed by past Secretaries, and the expectations of the organic community, and my understanding of the collaborative course of conduct that, so far as I am aware, has always guided organic policy development. It is imperative that a strong relationship exists between farmers, producers, ranchers and all members of the organic community and the Secretary of the USDA in order to fulfill the mandates of OFPA and to protect the integrity of the word organic in the marketplace.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 11th day of May 2018.
Jeff Moyer
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
EXHIBIT 7
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746.1, Laura Batcha, declare:

1. I am the CEO and Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association ("OTA"). This statement is based on my personal knowledge and is submitted in support of OTA’s opposition to the USDA’s motion to dismiss OTA’s Second Amended Complaint.

2. OTA was created to generate and ensure organic industry representation and advocacy for organic trade participants and organic consumers. See e.g. SAC at ¶¶'s 21-25. Prior to passage of the OFPA OTA was very active in organic standards development and had a unique role of attempting to harmonize the various private and state standards that then existed. See e.g. 65 Fed. Reg. at 80,666 (citing “the industry developed standards recently proposed by the Organic Trade Association.”) OTA worked with all market participants and certification entities, many of whom were members.

3. OTA was instrumental in passage of the Organic Foods Production Act and supported the creation by Congress of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB") as a unique, expert, public-private organic standards development body. See e.g 65 Fed. Reg. at 80677. ("Congress was petitioned by the Organic Trade Association to establish national
standards for organic food and fiber products); see also SAC at ¶¶'s 62-68 (citing approvingly legislative history of NOSB creation)

4. OTA also supported the creation of a single, uniform national market for organic products. 7 U.S.C. § 6501 (purposes of enactment). SAC at ¶ 253 (citing legislative history of need for single national standard; inability of marketplace to solve the market failure problem); see also e.g. SAC at ¶ 248(c) (citing USDA research--“Setting a national organic standard ended variance among State standards. This gave the organic sector more access to interstate and international markets, increasing sales.”)

5. The National Organic Program’s elimination of competing private and state organic standards backed by the USDA organic seal fulfilled Congressional intent to eliminate regulatory variance and eliminate the informational asymmetry that plagued farmers, processors and consumers prior to the initiation of the federal program. See e.g. 7 U.S.C. § 6501 (purposes of enactment); see also SAC at ¶ 248 (USDA research findings that consumer support for product attributes they cannot verify themselves, like organic, can vanish if inconsistency is introduced); 65 Fed. Reg. at 80666 (rejecting maintenance of “status quo” because there “would be no national standard or national program of accreditation and certification.”)

6. Following passage of the OFPA and creation of the NOSB, OTA’s mission was updated to operate within the framework that Congress selected and OTA has worked to ensure the federal organic program fulfilled its transformational agricultural, environmental and market promise of establishing a single, uniform, consistently applied national standard for organic production and the labeling of organic products based on recommendations from the NOSB to the Secretary. All OTA advocacy activities proceed from the perspective of a single national standard that is backed by a single, federal certification and enforcement scheme and a standards development process that fully incorporates the NOSB. 7 U.S.C. § 6503-04 (national program requirements); 7 U.S.C. § 6519 (federal penalties for misuse of label or false statements in certification process)

7. OTA’s mission and advocacy activities harmonized with the first twenty years of the USDA’s approach to the NOSB and the maintenance of a uniform national standard for organic production and products. See e.g. SAC at ¶¶‘s 269-272 (noting pathway to
harmonized organic standards—statutory authority, agency findings of inconsistency in federal standards, programmatic determination to conduct federal rulemaking to remedy the inconsistency consonant with cost/benefit analysis principles); SAC at ¶ 248 (USDA research findings that consumer support for product attributes they cannot verify themselves, like organic, can vanish if inconsistency is introduced)

8. OTA and its members recognize that use of the USDA’s Organic Seal constitutes a kind of shared brand among all certified operations and businesses. This unique common equity places greater than usual emphasis on the need for consensus standard setting under the federal organic program and on uniform compliance and cohesive enforcement. The USDA seal is commonly and uniformly used on the packaging of every certified organic product.

9. In the Withdrawal Rule USDA reversed these two foundational principles--,

a. “[T]he withdrawal of the OLPP final rule does not restrict organic producers from using private certification labels to communicate additional information to consumers about production practices or product attributes.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10780; “Variance in production practices and participation in private, third-party certification programs, however, do not constitute evidence of significant market failure.” 83 Fed. Reg. at 10,782;

b. “OFPA does not require AMS to consult with the NOSB prior to undertaking a rulemaking to withdraw the OLPP final rule.” 83 Fed. Reg. 10,778 at n. 6.; “[N]othing in OFPA requires AMS to consult the NOSB at every phase of the rule making process or makes the NOSB’s recommendations binding on the Secretary, nor could it.” 83 Fed. Reg. 10778

10. With regard to the change referenced in 9(a) the OTA’s modern mission and advocacy activities in pursuit thereof are severely compromised and concretely harmed because they are organized around the lodestone of a single national standard and the NOSB as the gatekeeper. But that activity is frustrated and impeded by the narrowing role of the NOSB arising from the withdrawal rule. OTA’s activities and advocacy efforts will instead have to be redirected to a returning to its role as a harmonizer of various private standards or become a private standards setter as well as grapple with the possibility of

Declaration of Laura Batcha – OTA v. USDA3
restoration of a patchwork of new private entities and state “add on” organic standards that will fundamentally change its mission. The sea change introduced by the approach taken in the withdrawal cannot be overestimated and is not speculative.

11. OTA’s typical advocacy activities that are in addition to this litigation are already impaired. OTA’s annual “policy week” activities in Washington have been curtailed because it has paid for a venue and an expert to convene a facilitated working session in Washington D.C. to address this proposed reversion to the pre-OFPA wild west days of organic standards. This takes away from and frustrates the main purpose of “policy week” which is to meet with federal officials on federal organic issues.

12. Since the adoption of the NOP in 2000 USDA has consistently rejected “better than you” organic claims or “beyond organic” marketing claims and certification programs as antithetical to the purposes the OFPA set forth in Section 6501. The NOP in the proposed OLPP and the final OLPP, and the USDA’s own researchers in a recent research report, have concluded that differences between government standards and private standards often results in consumer confusion and anticompetitive outcomes. See e.g. SAC at ¶ 248 (review of Economic Research Service Report conclusions)\(^1\)

13. In sum, OTA’s mission was reformed in 1990 to be part of a federal organic eco-system that focused on a uniform national standard that was consistently enforced. It is already expending financial and expert resources to overcome the harm to its activities arising directly from the USDA’s reversion to a mixture of private, state and federal organic production requirements created by the withdrawal rule of March 2018. OTA anticipates significant additional expenditure of funds to restructure its operations and ongoing frustration of its current activities and mission.

14. With regard to the change in 9(b), OTA has pointed throughout the SAC that amending a substantive legislative rule twice without notice and comment and a third time on substandard notice, and withdrawing a valid published rule ten-years in the making without consulting the NOSB whatsoever hardly constitutes an undertaking that can be


Declaration of Laura Batcha – OTA v. USDA
dismissed as a mere “phase” of rulemaking. These steps are at the core of development of 
organic policy for which Congress commanded, and USDA past practice confirms, the 
NOSB must be involved. See e.g. Exhibits x-x (declarations of former NOSB chairs); 
Dkt. No. 16, Exhibit 3: Declaration of NOSB Chair Tom Chapman at ¶¶’s 15, 18, 20, 22, 
26.

15. The SAC at ¶ 24 notes that the “consultative channel with the NOSB” is a “key 
mechanism” by which OTA and its members participate in development of organic 
policy. OTA participates with the NOSB on an ongoing basis and has organized its 
activities around this purpose. A sudden change to operating in 50 states with various 
organic agendas and interacting with an innumerable number of private certification 
entities whose goals and purposes may well be at odds with the single national standard 
around which OTA currently operates is an inescapable and concrete harm to its present 
activities and operating principles. OTA is already spending resources to address the 
development of private organic standards that were sparked by USDA’s delay 
rulemakings, and now expects a significant expansion in light of the statements in the 
withdrawal rulemaking.

16. OTA is also aware that the USDA has curtailed the work plan of the NOSB in alignment 
with the statements cited above thus forcing OTA to expend additional resources on 
attempting to guess what USDA is planning with regard to organic policy. The NOSB 
work plan typically demonstrated the focal point of the agency’s interest and efforts and 
allowed OTA to focus its members attention and resources on these topics. See e.g. 
Exhibits x-x. (declarations of former NOSB chairs describing purpose of work plan and 
its role in NOSB recommendations) This directly and materially impairs OTA’s 
activities on pending matters that are now put on the back burner or dropped, such as 
organic seed policy and soilless production systems and aquaculture systems.

17. Each Plaintiff in this case pointed out the harm arising from USDA’s reversal on the 
OLPP included persistent market failure and public institution failure to maintain and 
enforce a statutory purpose—consistent national standards. SAC at ¶ 250 (citing OTA 
and AWI/ASPCA comments during rulemaking); SAC Exhibit 4 (OTA comment at 4); 
SAC Exhibit 5 Comment of ASPCA and AWI at 17-19.
18. In December 2017 OTA requested that the USDA enlarge the time for comment on its proposed withdrawal of the OLPP. Enlargement was requested because the issues raised with regard to the cost/benefit analysis was complex and appeared likely to require an expert, or multiple experts, to analyze the revised economic findings in the USDA’s PRIA. The PRIA was not published in the Federal Register. USDA refused to enlarge the time for comment. This resulted in substandard due process under the APA and concrete harm to OTA’s interests that are not merely abstract or an objection to a policy direction.

19. The conduct of the USDA throughout this fourteen month period has evidenced a closed mind and unwillingness to fully and fairly consider the ramifications of its abrupt change in the foundational principles of federal organic policy.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 15th day of May 2018.

[Signature]

Laura Batcha
Organic Trade Association

Declaration of Laura Batcha – OTA v. USDA
EXHIBIT 2
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, J. Michael Sligh, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). I served a five-year term - [March, 1992-1997] - I was elected the founding chairperson in [March, 1992] and served in that position for three years, as well as later serving as co-chair during my tenure.

3. Congress created the NOSB to “assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA,” 7 USC §6518(a), and directed the Secretary: “shall establish an organic certification program … and shall consult with the NOSB.” 7 USC §6503(a)

4. To discharge these duties the Secretary and the NOSB use a formal procedure to identify and place policy matters before the board for consideration, including the use of an annual work plan.

5. Any matter placed before the NOSB may result in a final recommendation regarding the matter from the board. Each final recommendation of the board is considered, debated and voted on in public session and officially recorded.

Declaration of J. Michael Sligh
6. A key role of the board, and particularly the Chair, is to ensure the organic policy recommendations forwarded to the Secretary increase and never degrade the public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA’s organic seal. This trust has been developed and maintained by years of robust, collaborative, and transparently adduced administrative records. Such records include extensive public, academic, and industry input, spirited and informed debate among board members, and carefully vetted written recommendations upon which the Secretary has always based its rulemaking decisions.

7. I recall that the Secretary did not initiate any rulemaking during my time on the board or as its chair, whether a proposed, interim or final rule, to create or amend existing organic standards except when based on receipt of a formal recommendation from the NOSB.

8. During my time on the NOSB, including my time as Chairperson the well-settled practice and common understanding was that the sections of the OFPA referenced above required collaboration between the Secretary and the NOSB on every policy question that might ultimately lead to rulemaking. In fact, every organic-related rulemaking of which I am familiar was based on the work and formal recommendations of the NOSB.

9. A failure to formally consult the NOSB before initiating organic-related rulemaking would be inconsistent with my experience of the process followed by past Secretaries, and the expectations of the organic community, and my understanding of the collaborative course of conduct that, so far as I am aware, has always guided organic policy development.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of May 2018.

J. Michael Sligh
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
EXHIBIT 3
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Mac Stone declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am employed as a managing partner of Elmwood Stock Farm where I am responsible for protein sales and farmers markets.

3. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board") serving during the years that animal welfare standards were being discussed and debated. I was elected and became the chairperson in 2012. I was honored to be elected by my peers to be their Chairman, and served for 1.5 years.

4. Congress created the NOSB to "assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA," 7 USC §6518(a), and directed the Secretary: "shall establish an organic certification program … and shall consult with the NOSB." 7 USC §6503(a)

5. To discharge these duties the Secretary and the NOSB use a formal procedure to identify and place policy matters before the board for consideration, including the use of an annual work plan.
6. Any matter placed before the NOSB may result in a final recommendation regarding the matter from the board. Each final recommendation of the board is considered, debated and voted on in public session and officially recorded.

7. A key role of the board, and particularly the Chair, is to ensure the organic policy recommendations forwarded to the Secretary increase and never degrade the public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA’s organic seal. This trust has been developed and maintained by years of robust, collaborative, and transparently adduced administrative records. Such records include extensive public, academic, and industry input, spirited and informed debate among board members, and carefully vetted written recommendations upon which the Secretary has always based its rulemaking decisions.

8. I have no recollection of the Secretary initiating any rulemaking during my time on the board or as its chair, whether a proposed, interim or final rule, to create or amend existing organic standards except when based on receipt of a formal recommendation from the NOSB, and I would probably remember that, because it would have been a big deal to all segments of the organic community.

9. During my time on the NOSB, including my time as Chairperson the well-settled practice and common understanding was that the sections of the OFPA referenced above required collaboration between the Secretary and the NOSB on every policy question that might ultimately lead to rulemaking. In fact, every organic-related rulemaking of which I am familiar was based on the work and formal recommendations of the NOSB.

10. A failure to formally consult the NOSB before initiating organic-related rulemaking would be inconsistent with my experience of the process followed by past Secretaries, and the expectations of the organic community, and my understanding of the collaborative course of conduct that, so far as I am aware, has always guided organic policy development.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this __14__ day of May 2018.

Original signed, filed by permission

Mac Stone, former NOSB Chairperson
EXHIBIT 1
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Robert B Anderson, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am the owner of Sustainable Strategies LLC and provide consultation services regarding domestic and international trade in organic products.

3. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB" or "board"). In January 1995, I began a six year term on the "NOSB" and was elected and consecutively served as the chairperson during the development of National Organic Standards from 1996 through 2000. Congress created the NOSB to “assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA,” 7 USC §6518(a), and directed the Secretary: “shall establish an organic certification program ... and shall consult with the NOSB.” 7 USC §6503(a)
4. To discharge these duties the Secretary and the NOSB use a formal procedure to identify and place policy matters before the board for consideration, including the use of an annual work plan.

5. Any matter placed before the NOSB may result in a final recommendation regarding the matter from the board. Each final recommendation of the board is considered, debated and voted on in public session and officially recorded.

6. A key role of the board, and particularly the Chair, is to ensure the organic policy recommendations forwarded to the Secretary increase and never degrade the public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA’s organic seal. This trust has been developed and maintained by years of robust, collaborative, and transparently adduced administrative records. Such records include extensive public, academic, and industry input, spirited and informed debate among board members, and carefully vetted written recommendations upon which the Secretary has always based its rulemaking decisions. The Organic Trade Association’s 2016 report - © U.S. Families’ Organic Attitudes and Beliefs Study found that the USDA Organic Seal was one of the top three seals recognized and trusted by American consumers. During my tenure on the NOSB, the Secretary did not initiate any rulemaking during my time on the board or as its chair, whether a proposed, interim or final rule, to create or amend existing organic standards except when based on receipt of a formal recommendation from the NOSB.

7. During my time on the NOSB, including my time as Chairperson the well-settled practice and common understanding was that the sections of the OFPA referenced above required collaboration between the Secretary and the NOSB on every policy question that might ultimately lead to rulemaking. In fact, every organic-related rulemaking of which I am familiar was based on the work and formal recommendations of the NOSB.

8. The USDA withdrew the first proposed Organic Rule following receipt of more than two hundred thousand adverse comments from U.S organic consumers, producers, businesses, associations and NOSB members, and consultation with the NOSB including declarant. Thereafter, USDA openly solicited NOSB recommendations throughout the development of the final organic regulation.
9. A failure to formally consult the NOSB before initiating organic-related rulemaking is inconsistent with my experience of the process followed by past Secretaries, the expectations of the organic community, including consumers, and my knowledge of the collaborative course of conduct that has [always] guided organic policy development in the United States.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of May 2018.

Robert B. Anderson
Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board
EXHIBIT 6
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Suzanne McMillan, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the animal welfare community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am employed as the Content Director for the ASPCA’s Farm Animal Welfare Campaign, where I am responsible for tracking and improving animal welfare standards associated with animal welfare certification programs and government-regulated food label claims.

3. The ASPCA has a well-established farm animal welfare program which employs several farm animal welfare experts and is supported by other ASPCA staff, including those in the organization’s Government Relations and Legal Advocacy departments.

4. The farm animal welfare program helps the ASPCA achieve its mission by advocating for a range of laws, regulations, and policies that promote greater protection for farm animals, including bans on raising farm animals with cages, crates, and other intensive farming practices that maximize output at the expense of animal welfare; corporate
policies adopting more humane husbandry, transportation, and slaughter practices; and regulatory and legislative requirements that ensure food product labels convey accurate information to consumers about farm animal welfare.

5. The ASPCA pursues these efforts through regulatory and legislative advocacy; corporate and institutional engagement; and consumer education and mobilization.

6. Through this work, the ASPCA aims to improve farm animal welfare by, among other things, expanding the portion of the market comprised of meaningful third-party animal welfare-certified meat, dairy, and egg products.

7. Much of the ASPCA’s farm animal welfare work is reflected on the ASPCA’s “Shop With Your Heart” campaign website, which is geared toward consumers, companies, and advocates.

8. That website, launched in 2016, reaches millions of Americans to encourage them to consider making more humane food choices by providing resources such as food label guides, lists of higher-welfare brands, guides for farmers considering welfare certification, and ways for the public to take action to improve farm animal welfare.

9. The campaign has been reported on by national publications including the New York Times, USA Today, and the Los Angeles Times.

10. The Shop With Your Heart campaign reaches 2.5 million ASPCA members by e-mail and has 1.75 million Facebook followers, 490,000 Twitter followers, and 303,000 Instagram followers.

11. Over the past year, forty-five brands and twelve major food buyers have collaborated with the Shop With Your Heart campaign by adopting the most rigorous and transparent farm animal welfare certification programs in the country, thereby improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of chickens, cows, pigs, and other farm animals.

12. In its first year, the ASPCA’s Shop With Your Heart campaign garnered the ASPCA approximately 3,000 additional followers, supporters, and donors per month, reflecting the growing expectations of ASPCA supporters and the American public that animal welfare organizations like the ASPCA vigorously advocate for improvements in farm animal welfare.

Declaration of ASPCA Employee Suzanne McMillan
13. The ASPCA’s farm work has also helped the ASPCA reach new audiences, such as individuals concerned with personal health, public health, the environment, and fair labor standards.

14. The ASPCA is a key participant in a number of cross-sector initiatives and events that have allowed it to generate materials for those new audiences and reach them through public appearances on conference panels and in other venues.

15. Additionally, the farm animal welfare program continues to develop relationships with farm animal sanctuaries, helping to increase the ASPCA’s ability to place farm animals from cruelty cases.

16. Prior to the OLPP’s withdrawal, the ASPCA devoted a substantial amount of its time and other resources to improving organic standards.

17. It has focused on educating consumers on what the Organic label entails for animal welfare and, eventually, planned to help raise the labels’ welfare standards, through the implementation of the OLPP and other efforts.

18. While the OLPP rulemaking process was underway, and relying on the assumption that the process would have established regulations leading to higher welfare, the ASPCA engaged organic farmers to secure their support for OLPP, and encouraged their participation in its outreach campaigns.

19. Now that OLPP has been withdrawn and the anticipated certainty in consistent and improved animal welfare regulations has been destroyed, the Organic farming community is splintering off in several directions.

20. Some farms will implement higher-welfare standards, while others may not. Without OLPP in place, both types of farms may use the same Organic certification.

21. This is likely to cause increased consumer confusion, since the Organic food label will not carry a consistent meaning as it relates to animal welfare standards.

22. Relatedly, the OLPP’s withdrawal has now made it difficult for the ASPCA to clarify the Organic label for consumers, because the ASPCA had previously publicized the OLPP rule as promising significant improvements to the Organic label.
23. The ASPCA’s Shop With Your Heart campaign is aimed at helping consumers understand the complex food labeling marketplace and increasing the availability of meaningful food-labeling certifications.

24. The repeated postponement, and eventual withdrawal, of the OLPP has undermined this work and likely eroded consumer trust in this campaign.

25. USDA’s recent refusal to include NOSB in its decision-making process (including on USDA’s decision to withdraw the OLPP rule) limited the ASPCA’s ability to obtain critical information about the status of the agency’s rulemaking, which the ASPCA needed to develop appropriate educational and other programmatic activities.

26. Since the OLPP was first postponed, the ASPCA has diverted resources toward extensive communication with the public, journalists, and partner organizations to alert them to USDA’s actions.

27. This includes press releases; researching and releasing reports on the economic and ethical imperative for these rules; conducting extensive media interviews; coordinating with farmers, companies, and other strategically-aligned groups; issuing multiple rounds of advocacy emails; and launching multi-platform social media campaigns, all urging public comment to USDA.

28. None of these activities were taken for the purpose of litigation or in anticipation of litigation. The ASPCA would have undertaken these activities to counteract USDA’s conduct regardless of whether it joined this lawsuit or not.

29. If the OLPP were implemented, the ASPCA could re dedicate resources to its other legislative, regulatory, corporate, or consumer education initiatives that help fulfill its mission.

30. For example, the ASPCA could focus its work on clarifying other types of food labeling claims for the public, as well as improving the underlying animal welfare standards of those labels.

31. The ASPCA could also focus more on growing the market for, and continuing to raise the standards of, animal welfare certification programs (such as Certified Humane, Global Animal Partnership and Animal Welfare Approved), which is a cornerstone of the ASPCA’s farm animal welfare strategy.

Declaration of ASPCA Employee Suzanne McMillan
32. To date, many of the ASPCA’s resources have been dedicated to just one label – USDA Organic.

33. Therefore, immediate implementation of the OLPP rule would allow the ASPCA to focus on other campaigns, as well as refine its work with organic farmers and consumers and continue to advocate for higher organic welfare standards following implementation of OLPP.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 16th day of May 2018.

Suzanne McMillan
Content Director, Farm Animal Welfare Campaign
Strategy & Campaigns
ASPCA
EXHIBIT 5
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Tracy Miedema, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this declaration. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I am aware of this litigation because of its importance to the organic community. I have no financial interest in this litigation.

2. I am employed as the Vice President of Innovation and Brand Development at Presence Marketing, where I am responsible for New Business and Investment Portfolio.

3. I am a past member of the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB” or “board”). In January 2007 I began a 5 year term on the “NOSB” and was elected the chairperson in January 1, 2011 until January 1, 2012

4. Congress created the NOSB to “assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA,” 7 USC §6518(a), and directed the Secretary: “shall establish an organic certification program … and shall consult with the NOSB.” 7 USC §6503(a)

5. To discharge these duties the Secretary and the NOSB use a formal procedure to identify and place policy matters before the board for consideration, including the use of an annual work plan.
6. Any matter placed before the NOSB may result in a final recommendation regarding the matter from the board. Each final recommendation of the board is considered, debated and voted on in public session and officially recorded.

7. A key role of the board, and particularly the Chair, is to ensure the organic policy recommendations forwarded to the Secretary increase and never degrade the public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA’s organic seal. This trust has been developed and maintained by years of robust, collaborative, and transparently adduced administrative records. Such records include extensive public, academic, and industry input, spirited and informed debate among board members, and carefully vetted written recommendations upon which the Secretary has always based its rulemaking decisions.

8. I recollect that the Secretary did not initiate any rulemaking during my time on the board or as its chair, whether a proposed, interim or final rule, to create or amend existing organic standards except when based on receipt of a formal recommendation from the NOSB.

9. During my time on the NOSB, including my time as Chairperson the well-settled practice and common understanding was that the sections of the OFPA referenced above required collaboration between the Secretary and the NOSB on every policy question that might ultimately lead to rulemaking. In fact, every organic-related rulemaking of which I am familiar was based on the work and formal recommendations of the NOSB.

10. A failure to formally consult the NOSB before initiating organic-related rulemaking would be inconsistent with my experience of the process followed by past Secretaries, and the expectations of the organic community, and my understanding of the collaborative course of conduct that, so far as I am aware, has always guided organic policy development.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of May 2018.

Tracy Miedema - Former Chairman
National Organic Standards Board

Declaration of Tracy Miedema
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Gina Asoudegan, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this statement, which is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated.

2. I am the Vice President of Mission and Innovation Strategy for Applegate, the nation’s leading natural and organic meat brand. Among other responsibilities, I oversee the development and maintenance of Applegate’s livestock production requirements. Our standards are based on our company values and consumer preferences.

3. Applegate is the leading natural and organic prepared meat products company in the United States. Our products are sold in all 50 states. Applegate is an OTA member.

4. We purchase millions of dollars of certified organic livestock products from certified organic livestock farmers every year, and market millions of dollars of certified organic prepared meat products to consumers through retail channels. We purchase and process beef, turkey, chicken, and pork products.
5. We operate a website that explains the principles of our business model. Two core values of the company are supporting appropriate scale livestock operations and high animal welfare production systems.

6. Our consumers have for many years been telling us that they support and seek products from farms that follow verified higher animal welfare practices.

7. Sufficient outdoor access, and indoor and outdoor space sufficient to express behaviors natural to their species is generally recognized by consumers and farmers as a baseline high animal welfare practice and a key organic principle. But there have been and currently are inconsistencies in the application of these principles under the USDA’s certification system.

8. It is our experience that these inconsistencies allowed some organic operators to achieve lower production costs by ignoring the consensus organic baseline outdoor access and space requirements, while remaining certified. This in turn distorts the marketplace for organic livestock products by making these products less expensive than ones from operations that observed the strictest organic welfare requirements. Our company is harmed by competition from organic livestock products that are not meeting the highest, organic welfare standards.

9. Because of the inconsistent application of the federal program, Applegate expends resources confirming that our organic suppliers are not operating under the lower organic welfare requirements. We also purchase from organic operations that pay for animal welfare certifications in addition to organic certification, which further increases the cost of organic products. These costly discrepancies were set to be eliminated by the Organic Livestock Production Practices Final Rule issued in January 2017. (“OLPP”)

10. The absence of a consistent national standard for organic livestock products and its associated additional costs harms consumers in the form of higher prices.

11. Our consumers communicate with us directly via social media and indirectly through purchases. Our consumers uniformly support the OLPP final rule. Our consumers, via social media, have expressed dismay and a growing distrust of the federal organic program because...
of the delay. Applegate has collected more than 32,000 signatures of support for the OLPP through a change.org petition started on January 16, 2018.

12. Our company has been involved in the development of the USDA’s rulemaking for many years through submission of comments and testimony before the National Organic Standards Board. (“NOSB”) We supported the draft OLPP published in April 2016 and the final OLPP published in January 2017. Applegate has invested, and continues to invest, significant employee resources to remain abreast of organic policy making and the activities of the NOSB. We also rely on OTA to lobby and provide current information.

13. The refusal of the current administration to consult the public on the first announced delays and the refusal to consult the NOSB on the decision to delay the OLPP and the decision to propose its withdrawal, further undermines the trust of consumers in the USDA’s organic seal.

14. We believe that further delay or withdrawal of the OLPP would promote higher costs for processors of organic livestock products, and higher consumer prices that the OLPP was designed to reduce. We also believe that consumers’ trust the USDA organic seal on livestock products in part because they believe animals are allowed outdoors and sufficient space to express natural behavior. Refusal to implement the OLPP renders that trust misplaced.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this ___ day of February 2017.

Gina Asoudegan
Vice President of Mission and Innovation Strategy, Applegate
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, George Siemon, declare:

1. I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CROPP Cooperative d/b/a Organic Valley.

2. CROPP is the largest farmer-owned organic cooperative in the world. CROPP Cooperative is a marketing cooperative focused exclusively in organic trade. Organized in 1988, CROPP is owned by over 2,000 certified organic livestock organic farmers in 36 states. The co-op achieved more than $1 billion in sales in 2017. CROPP produces a variety of organic foods, including organic milk, soy, cheese, butter, spreads, creams, eggs, pork, poultry, and beef and produce.

3. CROPP Cooperative produces and markets certified organic dairy and egg products under the Organic Valley® brand and certified organic meat products under the Organic Prairie® brand.

4. CROPP produces, processes and markets only certified organic products and change in the organic regulations affects our business directly. Because we are a livestock products Declaration of George Siemon
business, the Organic Livestock Production Practices rule directly affected our business by altering the terms of compliance and competition, including changing what can be certified and labeled as organically produced.

5. CROPP, through my personal activity and that of others, supported the adoption of the OFPA in 1990 to remove the patchwork of state and private organic standards that were confusing consumers, and preventing a single, consistent definition of organic production practices to govern the interstate marketplace. In 1990, organic advocates considered it a great victory to have Congress create the National Organic Program (“NOP”) and the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”) to advise the USDA, and strongly supported the diverse composition of the NOSB and the mandate that the Secretary conduct pre-rulemaking consultations with the NOSB.

6. It was widely understood by organic advocates at the time of the passage of the OFPA that livestock production practices and standards were underdeveloped compared to crop production practices and the statutory requirement that the NOSB and USDA develop additional dairy, meat and egg producing animal management and healthcare practices was considered necessary.

7. CROPP, through its farmer-owners, has invested, and continues to invest significant time and financial and employee resources to remain abreast of organic policy making and the activities of the NOSB and the USDA’s National Organic Program (“NOP”).

8. Because the NOP is a marketing program, and organic consumers are represented on the NOSB, it has long been the policy of the NOSB to incorporate consumer preferences and concerns into the recommendations to the USDA. Correspondingly, USDA has

Declaration of George Siemon
recognized and repeatedly referred to consumer attitudes and preferences in developing
and issuing the NOP’s programmatic standards.

9. Consumer preferences and attitudes are critical because unlike many other product
“standards” for manufactured items, organic is called a “process-based” standard. No
one can look at a tomato or egg and know if it is organic or not. The only way a
consumer can know something is organically produced is if it is certified by a certifying
agency. If the standards are not set by transparent mechanisms, or the verification
systems are weak, or the standards are inconsistently applied, the grounds for consumer
trust begin to dissolve.

10. Unlike most federal rulemaking, the pre-rulemaking consultation with the NOSB
requirement facilitates trust because it allows affected businesses, and consumers, a
unique and comprehensive opportunity to be part of pre-vetting of any proposed
amendment to the organic standards.

11. This pre-vetting allows certified organic parties and consumers to ascertain the concerns
of, and to fully assist the NOSB in refining its recommendations and critically, to hear the
level of support or opposition from farmers, consumers, and organic business entities.

12. Unlike most federal rulemaking, the direction and content of organic rulemaking is
generally well formed prior to the publication of any final recommendation to the
Secretary and certainly before any Notice of Proposed Rulemaking or Proposed Rule in
the Federal Register. It is common for organic businesses to act in reliance on detailed
NOSB recommendations that USDA has accepted, but not yet rendered into a final rule.

13. I believe this pre-vetting opportunity was mandated by Congress to ensure the organic
marketing program was always nimble, informed, transparent and continuously

                       Declaration of George Siemon
improving and to allow organic operators advance notice of programmatic issues that may result in changes to organic standards. It has also expressly brought consumer preferences into the discussion of organic standards.

14. The Final OLPP was a very logical and nearly unchanged version of the NOSB’s recommendations on this point and the provisions of the NPRM.

15. CROPP relies on the rules governing notice and comment before the NOSB and those governing rulemaking by the USDA to ensure it is able to fully and fairly participate in all aspects of the development of organic policies. In addition, CROPP relies on the mandatory consultation provisions set forth in the OFPA to both learn the USDA’s thinking and the thinking of the NOSB with regard to proposed amendments to the organic standards.

16. I am aware that the current Administration has not consulted the NOSB regarding its course of action with regard to the blocking the OLPP and CROPP has presently lost the opportunity to meaningfully advocate to the NOSB on the current matter. This is an ongoing deprivation.

17. I am personally unaware in more than 25 years of participation with Congress, USDA, the NOSB and the organic marketplace, of any significant organic policy that has been developed without consultation with the NOSB until the recent activity by USDA surrounding its efforts to block the implementation of the OLPP.

18. CROPP submitted written comments and testimony during the NOSB deliberations that led to the OLPP and again on the NPRM that led to the OLPP and has submitted comments every time the USDA has allowed comment since January 2017.

Declaration of George Siemon
19. CROPP requires all the members of its cooperative to be certified organic and to comply with all organic practices set forth in the rules and presently requires its members to observe the organic production practices listed in the OLPP.

20. CROPP required compliance because the final rule’s provisions were a very long time in development and thus largely anticipated, known, and were an important next step in the process of continual improvement of organic standards that Congress imposed. The compliance costs, such as alteration of pork and poultry housing, expansion of poultry housing, and acquisition of certified organic land, and adaptation of ongoing management practices, such as moving birds in and out of the barns, necessary to comply with OLPP are incurred and ongoing expenses that can only be redressed by implementation of the OLPP.

21. The lower welfare management practices that the OLPP bars, particularly the elimination of poultry houses that provide no access to the outdoors where there is no roof and no floor, is necessary to ensure fair competition in the marketplace. As the NOP found before adopting the OLPP, consumers are increasingly confused because of the inconsistent approach to “outdoor access.”

22. Livestock production standards that include outdoor access that includes direct sunlight, soil access, dust bathing and allowing animals to engage in other natural behaviors, and other best animal husbandry practices are a main tenet of the organic foods production system unlike other agricultural production methods. The practices codified in the OLPP were over a decade in the making. Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices, 82 Fed. Reg. at 7042-92 (published January 19, 2017) (“final rule”).

Declaration of George Siemon
23. In 2010 the USDA’s Inspector General concluded that the “outdoor access” requirement for poultry raised on certified organic farms was not being consistently applied. The NOP agreed to resolve the inconsistencies. After many years of discussion, it was determined that a rulemaking to ensure consistency was needed because certain practices that had been previously accepted were no longer acceptable, in part because it was not in the animal’s best interests and because consumers were abandoning organic products for products certified to “higher welfare” standards.

24. Many of these “higher welfare” standards the OLPP incorporated are set forth in certification programs such as the Global Animal Partnership 5 Step Program (“GAP”) or “Certified Humane”.

25. Verifying animal production standards that are in addition to organic requirements imposes an additional cost on certified organic operations. Simply put, it duplicates the cost of the organic certification. CROPP members have borne the financial cost burden of double certification and continue to do so.

26. The delay in implementing the OLPP has caused ongoing imposition of costs of additional certification that would have been alleviated by the final rule becoming effective.

27. In addition, during this period of delay consumers have become increasingly aware that the pre-OLPP requirements of “outdoor access” are not being consistently applied thus causing reputational harm to farmers that are willing to comply with the new requirements and lowering consumer trust and diluting the value of the USDA’s organic seal.

Declaration of George Siemon
28. If consumers understand that some organic livestock products meet higher welfare standards than others the USDA organic seal is concretely damaged by that inconsistency because consumers cannot know which organic products meet the higher requirements and which don’t.

29. CROPP depends on consistent application of the organic standards and without OLPP, some organic producers are not allowing their poultry to truly go outdoors and stocking densities are at unhealthy levels.

30. CROPP cannot abandon the federal organic program for other certification programs as its brand, Organic Valley, and its membership, require organic certification. CROPP is harmed when the USDA’s organic seal is devalued in the market place.

31. The failure to consult the NOSB during this entire delay period has also eroded confidence that the USDA is operating transparently and managing the NOP to ensure consistent standards are applied to all certified operations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this ___ day of February 2017.

___________________________

CEO, CROPP Cooperative and Organic Valley Family of Farms

Declaration of George Siemon
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, John F. Lee, declare:

1. I am an employee of CROPP Cooperative and Organic Valley Family of Brands, an entity that makes and markets certified organic livestock products. CROPP/Organic Valley is an OTA member.

2. I am the Retail Category Team Manager. In my employment, I study market trends regarding certified organic dairy products and eggs.

3. The best available organic market information for the year ending December 31, 2017 demonstrates that the organic dairy sector has stopped growing, and there is an actual downturn. Source: SPINS MULO + Natural Channels data ending 12/31/2017.

4. Data show total organic dairy sales were approximately 2.334 billion dollars in 2016 and 2.330 billion dollars in 2017, a decline of four million dollars.

5. This is only the second annual sales decline in organic dairy products in the past eleven years. The prior decline in 2009 was precipitated by the recession.

6. The sharpest drop in the growth rate in both volume of products and dollars in sales occurred in January 2017 and coincided with the administration’s announcement that it would delay the Organic Livestock Production Practices (“OLPP”) rule.
7. Since the announcement of the OLPP delay in January 2017, organic dairy volume has posted ten periods of negative growth.

8. Data show total organic shell egg sales were approximately 60.2 million dollars in 2016 and 62.9 million dollars in 2017, a gain of $2.7 million. The per egg sales contribution declined from $0.42 in 2016 to $0.40 in 2017, resulting in a revenue decrease of $14.5 million.

9. Similarly, with the temporary exception of high consumption periods around certain holidays, the organic shell egg market dollar sales growth steadily declined in 2017 but has not turned negative yet.

10. At present, I attribute the decline in egg shell profitability to a rapidly expanding supply arising from the use of organic production systems that were set to be disallowed under the OLPP.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 13th day of February 2018.

[Signature]

John F. Lee  
CROPP Cooperative  
Organic Valley Family of Farms
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Kyla Smith, declare:

1. I am the Board of Directors Chair of the Accredited Certifiers Association (“ACA”), a member of the Organic Trade Association. I previously submitted a declaration in this case and now supplement that statement.

2. Following an audit, in 2010 the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture determined the “outdoor access” requirement for organic poultry operations was inconsistently applied by federal organic certifying agents. This finding confirmed what our members had reported to the National Organic Program for many years.

3. The necessary clarifications to the rules were continuously worked on by the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”) after the audit’s findings and the ACA filed comments and testified multiple times to assist the board’s deliberations on this subject. The board’s recommendations became the basis of the Organic Livestock Production Practices rulemaking.1 (“OLPP”)

4. At the time the OLPP was published in January 2017 the Secretary said, “Based on recommendations from the Office of Inspector General and the NOSB, AMS determined that the current USDA organic regulations covering livestock care and production practices and living conditions needed additional specificity and clarity to better ensure consistent compliance by certified organic operations and to provide for more effective administration of the National Organic Program by AMS.” 82 Fed. Reg. at 7042; see also 7044 (“rulemaking…consistent with recommendations provided by USDA’s Office of Inspector General and nine separate recommendations from the NOSB.”)

5. The OLPP was a necessary clarification of the federal rules governing organic livestock production practices in order to ensure uniform, national organic standards as well as consistent compliance assessments by federally accredited certifying agents.

6. Delay or withdrawal of the OLPP harms and will continue to harm ACA members by depriving members of the clarifications contained in the final rule and the resultant inconsistent certification outcomes.

7. Delay or withdrawal of the OLPP harms ACA members because without the OLPP’s clarifications, the meaning of the word “organic” and the USDA organic seal persists in being inconsistently presented to consumers, something Congress sought to end with the passage of the Organic Foods Production Act and adoption of verification procedures that are implemented by accredited certifying agents.2

8. Accredited certifying agents (ACA members) are in the business of ensuring the efficacy of the USDA organic seal and are harmed when consumer perception and trust of the USDA seal is downgraded or diminished.

9. An example of the harm caused to the USDA’s organic seal, and consumer confusion is a recent class action filing against a certified organic egg producer and distributor. The case is based in large part on allegations of inadequate outdoor access for poultry which would have been resolved by the OLPP. (Gibson v. Wal-Mart and Cal-Maine Foods, 3:18-cv-00134, N.D. Ca.)

2 7 U.S.C. §6505(a)(2) (USDA standards and seal; authorizing incorporation of USDA seal into organic marketing information)
10. Further delay in implementing the OLPP clarifications increases the risk of civil liability for ACA members, as the civil litigants like those in the *Gibson* case may choose to attack the certifying agents as well as the certified organic operation.

11. ACA members each must “fully comply with the terms and conditions” of the National Organic Program. See 7 U.S.C. §6515(f). The failure to allow the OLPP to become effective interferes with ACA members’ efforts to fulfill this statutory mission because it reinstates the very inconsistency the Inspector General determined required remediation.

12. The ACA works closely with the NOSB to develop and refine recommendations to the Secretary. One of the fifteen seats on the NOSB is held by an accredited certifying agent. The seat is currently held by an ACA member. The expertise ACA’s members provide includes guidance on the effective dates of compliance because our members must train their inspectors in the new rule’s provisions to effectuate uniform compliance.

13. In this instance the ACA formed a working group of members to vet the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in April 2016 for consistency, as well as verification and inspection issues that might require adjustment. ACA members expended resources to assist the board and the USDA and to be ready to conduct inspections under the new rule. ACA members continue to expend resources in support of the OLPP.

14. The NOP has not consulted the NOSB on any of the rulemakings the Secretary has undertaken since the OLPP was published in January 2017. If the NOSB is not consulted prior to rulemaking by the Secretary, the ACA’s members are cut off from the main artery of communication to the Secretary and deprived of their opportunity to vet issues with the NOSB.

15. Under the rulemakings that involved no notice and comment to the public that are challenged in the OTA lawsuit, the ACA members are harmed by the denial of the right to directly participate in the rulemaking.

16. Similarly, when the USDA opened a rulemaking and presented four procedural options and nothing more, there was insufficient information to determine what the USDA sought
by the rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking did not identify any deficiencies in the OLPP or identify grounds in support of the options that could be the basis of a response.

17. I repeat one part of my prior declaration in this case: Withdrawing this final rule or continuing to delay its implementation harms and will continue to harm ACA and its members and could lead to profound disruption to the marketplace for certified organic products by irretrievably damaging consumer trust in the USDA organic seal.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 13th day of February 2018.

Kyla Smith
Accredited Certifiers Association

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Laura Batcha, declare:

1. I am the CEO and Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association (“OTA”). This statement is based on my personal knowledge and is submitted in support of OTA’s opposition to the USDA’s motion to dismiss.

2. The Organic Trade Association is a membership-based business association for organic agriculture and products in North America.

3. Our members include growers, shippers, processors, certifiers, farmers’ associations, distributors, importers, exporters, consultants, retailers, consumers and others.

4. OTA’s mission is to promote and protect the growth of organic trade to benefit the environment, farmers and consumers using research-driven policy analysis and advocacy.

5. OTA’s members recognize that use of the USDA’s Organic Seal constitutes a kind of shared brand among all certified operations and businesses. This unique common equity places greater than usual emphasis on the need for consensus standard setting under the federal organic program and on uniform compliance.

6. The USDA seal is commonly and uniformly used on the packaging of every certified organic product.
7. OTA was instrumental in obtaining passage of the Organic Foods Production ("OFPA") ("Congress was petitioned by the Organic Trade Association to establish national standards for organic food and fiber products.) See 65 Fed. Reg. at 80677

8. OTA is experienced in the development, implementation and enforcement of organic standards See 65 Fed. Reg. at 80678 (citing OTA’s work developing the American Organic Standards.)

9. OTA routinely works closely with the National Organic Standards Board ("NOSB") on organic policy, standards, and other matters.

10. The NOSB’s role developing standards for the Secretary of Agriculture has historically been plenary. For the last 20 years it has been understood that the strongest role for the NOSB is with regard to the National List, and development of livestock standards.

11. OTA’s relationships with the principal statutory advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture is a key part of its professional toolkit and when the USDA denies the NOSB its consultative opportunity, it directly harms OTA’s members and mission.

12. OTA was instrumental in obtaining the publication of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices final rule. See 82 Fed. Reg. at 7042-92 (January 19, 2017) ("OLPP")

13. USDA’s refusal to undertake notice and comment prior to issuing final rules that amended the OLPP directly harmed OTA’s interest in participation in the rulemakings. See 82 Fed. Reg. at 9967 (February 9, 2017). ("First Delay Rule") 82 Fed. Reg. at 21,677 (May 10, 2017) (the Second Delay Rule)

14. The USDA’s subsequent rulemaking undertaken on May 10, 2017, Fed. Reg. at 21742, asked for comment solely on whether the published final OLPP should be implemented as published, further delayed or permanently withdrawn. It contained no substantive inquiry, identified no deficiency in the existing administrative record made over approximately ten years, identified no outstanding issue of law, fact or policy, and did not mention the NOSB’s role or its view on the matter.

15. When the USDA issued its Third Delay Rule following the May 10, 2017 rulemaking it said, “This final rule adopts Option 3: Delay, so that important questions regarding USDA’s statutory authority to promulgate the OLPP rule and the likely costs and benefits of that rule, can be more fully assessed through the notice and comment process prior to
AMS making a final decision on whether the OLPP final rule should take effect.” See 82 Fed. Reg. at 52643

16. USDA also said, “[D]uring the course of reviewing the rulemaking record for the Organic Livestock Rule final rule, AMS discovered a significant, material error in the mathematical calculations of the benefits estimates.” 82 Fed. Reg. at 52644 Based on this discovery, AMS concluded: “It is not appropriate for AMS to allow a final rule to become effective based on a record containing such a material error.” Id.

17. The rationale set forth for further delay in November was not a logical outgrowth of the four procedural questions posed in the May 10, 2017 notice of rulemaking, thus OTA and its members were deprived of the chance to meaningfully comment.

18. In addition, the technical reports necessary to assess whether a cost/benefit error had been made were not included in the rulemaking materials, and thus could not be evaluated and commented upon. The documents that USDA was apparently analyzing were posted to the regulations.gov website on December 18, 2017. Available at https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=AMS-NOP-15-0012 “Supporting Documents Folder” (OLPP-PRIA) and (“Benefit+Cost Workbook for OLP Notice”)

19. OTA requested an extension of time in order to evaluate and comment on the cost benefit analysis question posed by USDA but the request was denied. Available at regulations.gov

20. Our members are very concerned that the ongoing delay is increasing consumer confusion and leading to unhelpful litigation against producers, retailers and others. A recently filed case in California seized on the concerns expressed by AMS in the OLPP regarding consumer confusion and the incompatibility of certain production systems with the claim that poultry receive “outdoor access.” See Gibson v. Wal-Mart and Cal-Maine Foods, 3:18-cv-00134, N.D. Ca.)

21. Further delay in implementing the OLPP clarifications increases the risk of civil liability for OTA and its members, as the civil litigants like those in the Gibson case may choose to attack the certifying agents as well as the certified organic operation.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this ___ day of February 2018.

Laura Batcha
Organic Trade Association
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Robynn Schrader, declare:

1. I am the Chief Executive Officer of National Co+op Grocers. I previously submitted a declaration in this case and now supplement that statement.

2. National Co+op Grocers (“NCG”) is a business services cooperative and OTA member. We routinely communicate with our representatives of over 200 stores in 37 states with combined annual sales over $2 billion and over 1.3 million consumer-owners.

3. Since the time of my initial declaration in this case the USDA has failed to allow the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices final rule to become effective.1

4. The continued delay of the OLPP is causing consumer confusion in NCG co-op stores about the meaning of organic livestock standards and the USDA organic seal.

5. In particular many consumers are hearing that organic chickens, both broilers and egg layers, do not have true outdoor access where the birds may express natural behavior such as ground-pecking and dust bathing and only go out of the chicken house into concrete floored, covered areas. This conflicts with their understanding that “outdoor

access” is required under the federal organic program, and is contributing to consumer confusion and degrading confidence in the USDA Certified Organic label.

6. Sales of organic eggs have shown significant decline in 2017 compared with sales growth in years past.

7. In addition, our members have been harmed by the refusal of the USDA to consult with the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”) during any of the rulemakings it has undertaken in regard to the delay of the OLPP, because NCG consumer-facing communications about the USDA Certified Organic program have consistently pointed to the NOSB, as established by the Organic Food Production Act, as a means for consumers and other stakeholders to participate in the transparent, public process that ensures strong and continuously improved organic standards.

8. The rulemaking USDA released in May 2017 presented only a choice between further delay or making the rule effective as planned. NCG supported the immediate cessation of delay, and provided public comments to this effect in June 2017 and again in January 2018. However, we could not tell from the published rulemaking what in the OLPP needed revision or how to fashion a meaningful comment because the rulemaking inquiry was simply too vague.

9. NCG is also concerned about civil liability arising from the confusion the delay of the OLPP has brought about, and how this could impact our members. A recent class action was filed against an organic egg retailer based in large part on a claim of inadequate outdoor access for the poultry. The outdoor access issue would have been resolved by the OLPP. (Gibson v. Wal-Mart and Cal-Maine Foods, 3:18-cv-00134, N.D. Ca.)

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10. The delay is now nearly a year long. The harm to the organic seal, consumer confidence and the risk of civil liability is not speculative.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 14th day of February 2018.

Robynn Shrader, National Co+op Grocers
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Tom Chapman, declare:

1. I am over 18 and under no disability that prevents me from making this statement. Each of the statements is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated. I have no financial interest in this litigation. I am a member of the Organic Trade Association.

2. I am employed as the Director of Ingredient Sourcing at Clif Bar & Company, where I am responsible for sourcing and contracting for organic ingredients. Clif Bar produces certified organic products.

3. I am a past member of the California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC) and the California Certified Organic Farmers Certification Services Management Committee, which I chaired from 2011-2014.

4. In January 2015 I began a term on the National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”) and was elected the chairman in November 2016.

5. According to the Organic Foods Production Act (“OFPA”) the NOSB has two key roles: to “assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA.” See 7 USC §6518(a) (emphasis added)
6. Section 6503 (a) of the OFPA correspondingly imposes a duty on the Secretary who:
“shall establish an organic certification program ... and shall consult with the NOSB.”

7. To give effect to this public-private consultative process the NOSB meets in open public
session twice a year, conducts telephonic committee meetings and working group
meetings on a monthly basis, and issues formally adopted recommendations to the
Secretary.

8. According to the NOSB Vision Statement appearing in the board’s Policy and Procedures
Manual at Section I (A),

The NOSB’s vision is an agricultural community rooted in organic principles and
values that instills trust among consumers, producers, processors, retailers and
other stakeholders. Consistent and sustainable organic standards guard and
advance the integrity of organic products and practices. Available at

9. According to Section III (E) of the board’s Policy and Procedures Manual,

The unique nature of the NOSB and its relationship with the NOP, as established
through OFPA, requires that the volunteer Board, which regularly receives
stakeholder input through public comment, must work collaboratively with the
NOP. Similarly the NOP, as required through OFPA, must consult and collaborate
with the NOSB Available at:

10. According to Section III (F) of the Policy and Procedures Manual, the board’s workplan
may include only those items that USDA determines are “within the scope of OFPA.”
Available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOSB-
PolicyManual.pdf

11. According to Section III (D) as the chairman it is my duty, to ensure the “integrity of the
NOSB process.” See NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual, pg. 8 (Duties of the Chair)

12. In April 2016 the USDA published the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule
(“Proposed OLPP”). 81 Fed. Reg. at 21,956-22,009 (April 13, 2016) and on January 19,
2017, the USDA published the final rule. (“Final OLPP”). See 82 Fed. Reg. at 7042-92
(January 19, 2017). The Final OLPP was set to take effect on March 20, 2017.

Declaration of NOSB Chairman, Tom Chapman
13. I was a member of the NOSB during this interval from April 2016 to December 2017. At no time did anyone at USDA raise with the NOSB whether any provision of the OLPP was “within the scope” of the authority granted the Secretary under the OPFA.

14. On February 9, 2017 the effective date of the OLPP was delayed to May 19, 2017. See 82 Fed. Reg. at 9967 (February 9, 2017).

15. At no time was I, as the chair of the NOSB, consulted regarding this change to the final OLPP nor was I requested to place the question of the amendment of the effective date before the NOSB for its consideration.

16. The NOSB conducted its semi-annual public meeting on April 19-21, 2017. At the outset of the meeting the Deputy Administrator of AMS said of the OLPP, The final rule is “a pretty amazing accomplishment that -- lot of work by the organic community, by this board, the National Organic Standards Board to come up with comprehensive recommendations and if you remember, that was in December 2011, and it took 3 us -- took AMS to finalize that a number of years, and that was finalized last year.” See e.g. Meeting Transcript, at 19 (available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/TranscriptsNOSBApril2017.pdf)

17. Despite the praise, the board was informed that the USDA had delayed the OLPP and that it was “under review.” See e.g. Meeting Transcript, at 19; at 411 (available at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/TranscriptsNOSBApril2017.pdf)

18. Having been excluded from all deliberations regarding the decision to delay, the board in open session unanimously adopted a resolution expressing its view that the OLPP become effective on May 19th as proposed in the February 9 delay rule. See e.g. Meeting Transcript, at 184-87 (Transcript Excerpt Attached)


20. At no time was I, as the chair of the NOSB, requested to place the question of the second amendment of the effective date of the Final OLPP before the NOSB or its relevant committees, for consideration.

21. In addition, USDA published a new rulemaking that posed four procedural questions focused on whether the Final OLPP should be further delayed, made effective, suspended indefinitely or withdrawn. See 82 Fed. Reg. at 21742 (May 10, 2017)

Declaration of NOSB Chairman, Tom Chapman
22. At no time was I, as the chair of the NOSB, requested to place the substance of the new rulemaking before the NOSB or its relevant committees, for consideration.


24. At no time was I, as the chair of the NOSB, requested to place the substance of the new rulemaking before the NOSB or its relevant committees, for its consideration. See 82 Fed. Reg. 52643-44 (no statement of consultation, its outcome or a waiver of the consultative duty by NOSB)

25. On December 18, 2017 the Secretary published a proposed new rule that would withdraw the Final OLPP. See 82 Fed. Reg. 59988 (Dec. 18, 2017)

26. At no time was I, as the chair of the NOSB, requested to place the substance of the December 2017 rulemaking before the NOSB or its relevant committees for its consideration. See 82 Fed. Reg. 59988-92 (no statement of consultation, its outcome or a waiver of the consultative duty by NOSB)

27. In sum, the USDA has not consulted the NOSB on any of the three delay rulemakings or either of the two rulemakings proposing withdrawal of the Final OLPP,

28. The record during the period since the first delay rule in February 2017 until the present time appears to me to conflict with the past practice of the USDA, under which no rulemaking affecting organic standards was undertaken without NOSB consultation, deliberation and input.

29. The record also appears to me to conflict with the duties and responsibilities of the USDA as set forth above in the cited sections of the OFPA and the board’s Policy and Procedures Manual. The failure to consult the NOSB diminishes trust among consumers and the organic community and undermines the collaborative work ethic that has guided us in the past.

30. The chair’s responsibility to ensure the integrity of the board’s process cannot be faithfully discharged without collaboration with the USDA or a fair debate among equals on the board to bring out the best collective wisdom on a topic.

31. The NOSB did not waive its consultative role. It is my experience that the NOSB is a diverse and active advisory board and that decisions it confronts with regard to organic

Declaration of NOSB Chairman, Tom Chapman
policy are often sharpened, clarified and ultimately resolved by group consensus. Public participation is key. I have observed many times that my board colleagues change their stated positions (or USDA changes its position) after a standing committee meeting or a full board meeting and following the opportunity to hear from colleagues and, when appropriate, the public. This deliberative opportunity has been foregone by the approach taken by the USDA in this matter.

32. I believe that the failure to implement the Final OLPP will harm consumer trust in the USDA Organic seal and the role of the NOSB because it appears the rulemaking process is underpinned not by deliberate and robust consensus building under the public-private partnership created by Congress, but by unhelpful exclusionary fiat.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 14th day of February 2017.

[Signature]

Tom Chapman
Chairman, National Organic Standards Board

Declaration of NOSB Chairman, Tom Chapman
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Dr. Tomislav Vukina, declare:

1. Each statement is based on my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated.

2. This declaration is submitted to assist the Court in understanding the relationship of my prior submission in this case, ECF No. 98-3 ("Dr. Vukina Declaration"), 98-4 ("Vukina Report") to the Declaration of Dr. Peyton Ferrier, submitted in support of the USDA’s request for a voluntary remand in this case, which I have reviewed.¹ (the “Ferrier Declaration”)

3. The Ferrier Declaration does not conclude the economic analysis in the Withdrawal RIA was properly conducted or reached the right result or can be understood by further explanation by USDA.

4. The Ferrier Declaration does conclude the economic analysis in the Withdrawal RIA was seriously flawed and plagued by multiple “methodological errors, principally in the ways that I described in my prior submission. See e.g. Ferrier Declaration, at ¶ 5(b) (stating the Withdrawal RIA applied an “invalid depreciation methodology” to the estimated benefits of the OLPP); ¶ 5(c) (stating the Withdrawal RIA “incorrectly”

¹ I use the same naming conventions as the Ferrier Declaration— the Regulatory Impact Analyses conducted for the Organic Livestock Production Practices rule is the “OLPP RIA” and for the OLPP Withdrawal rule, the “Withdrawal RIA.”.
depreciated costs when re-calculating the costs associated with one of the three examined market scenarios); ¶5(d) (stating the Withdrawal RIA “used inconsistent baseline values” when re-calculating future benefits of the OLPP); ¶5(e) (stating the Withdrawal RIA used “incorrect projections of organic egg production”)

5. It is not possible to independently confirm the results of any calculations expressed in the Ferrier Declaration because it does not include any calculations to support the stated conclusions. See e.g. Ferrier Declaration at ¶5(c) (concluding certain Withdrawal RIA calculations are off by 19.7%; offering no substantiation).

6. It is not possible to independently confirm or determine the scope of economic work that is proposed for further administrative action and, most notably for the issues raised by my submissions on behalf of OTA because the Ferrier Declaration does not disclose what formula or computational methodology for calculating the costs and benefits of the OLPP will be used in USDA’s next reconsideration of the OLPP.

7. For example, the Ferrier Declaration at ¶5(d) states the Withdrawal RIA did not apply the formula published in the OLPP RIA at fn. 94 but does not state the published formula will in fact be followed in any further administrative proceedings. The Ferrier Declaration at ¶5(d) also states that the “baseline values” of the formula published at fn. 94 were not used but does not state that they will be used in further administrative proceedings.

8. The term “baseline values” refers in economics to the assumptions about the current state of affairs—the starting point for economic analyses. Suggesting flaws in the treatment of “baseline values” and declining to reaffirm the existing formula for calculating benefits is tantamount to opening the door to completely reconfiguring the economic modeling and basic assumptions in the existing analysis.

9. The Ferrier Declaration indicates a proposed “redo” of the entire Withdrawal RIA rather than a bolstered explanation of the existing Withdrawal RIA or correcting minor technical errors in calculations.

10. Relying on the formula published by USDA in the OLPP RIA and carried forward by USDA to the Withdrawal RIA, I previously concluded the expected OLPP benefits easily exceeded the published costs and produced my calculations. I also concluded that the Withdrawal RIA artificially suppressed the benefits of the OLPP by inappropriately
applying straight line depreciation to future benefits and by undisclosed tinkering with some part of the published formula for benefits calculation, most likely by reducing the number of eggs used in the published formula. I also concluded that it was not possible to replicate the results USDA published in conjunction with the Withdrawal RIA, the “workbook” using the published formula. See generally ECF No. 98-3 (“Dr. Vukina Declaration”), 98-4 (“Vukina Report”)

11. As I concluded, and USDA has now admitted, the “workbook” of calculations it published in conjunction with the Withdrawal RIA was incorrect and the calculations did not in fact support its conclusion that costs exceeded benefits. See ECF No. 102, at p. 5, fn.4 (USDA Motion for Voluntary Remand stating “…USDA published a workbook on Regulations.gov that demonstrated its earlier (erroneous) analysis with revised discount formulas, rather than the fully corrected analysis.”)

12. In most instances the Ferrier Declaration appears to be restating an error I previously identified, for example:

   a. Compare my Conclusion 1, Vukina Report at p. 5, that USDA invalidly applied straight line depreciation to benefits in the Withdrawal RIA thus artificially reducing the value of the benefits of the OLPP with Ferrier Declaration at ¶5(b), that USDA used an “invalid depreciation methodology that affected the benefits calculations that was not fully corrected in the Withdrawal RIA.” In simple terms, we agree that the expected benefits of the OLPP were miscalculated due to an incorrect depreciation formula in the Withdrawal RIA and the results are thus erroneous and invalid.

   b. Compare my Conclusion 4, Vukina Report at p. 5, that the OLPP benefit figures in the Withdrawal RIA were too low because a “different number of eggs or different formula” was used than appeared in the Withdrawal RIA with the Ferrier Declaration at ¶5I which states that the “benefit figures” in the Withdrawal RIA were the result of “incorrect projections of organic egg production.” In simple terms, we agree the published formula was not followed in the Withdrawal RIA and the OLPP benefit figures were thereby miscalculated and are incorrect.
c. Compare my Conclusions 4-6, *Vukina Report* at p. 5, that even after correcting for the erroneous depreciation methodology that calculations of the expected benefits of the OLPP in the Withdrawal RIA could not be replicated using the published formula with the *Ferrier Declaration* at ¶5(d) which states that the Withdrawal RIA did not consistently apply the published formula to determine the “expected benefits of the OLPP rule. In simple terms, we agree that the published formula was not followed in the Withdrawal RIA and this introduced computational errors in addition to the specific methodological error involving depreciation, thus further rendering the results invalid.

d. Compare my Conclusion 9, *Vukina Report* at p. 5, that the Withdrawal RIA’s economic treatment of “forced molting” was incorrect with the *Ferrier Declaration* at ¶4 that concludes USDA properly lowered the estimated benefits of the OLPP because it had incorporated “…an inflated [consumer] willingness-to-pay…” value because forced molting is already required by the NOP. The *Ferrier Declaration* offers no substantiation for its conclusion.

13. I also note that my Conclusions 5-7, *Vukina Report* at p. 6, that are based on calculations I shared in Attachment A, demonstrate “the estimated benefits of the OLPP exceed the estimated costs by a large margin.” This should be compared with the two declarations submitted by USDA, that of Dr. Feather, ECF No. 102-1, and Dr. Ferrier, neither of which states the Withdrawal RIA’s conclusions are reliable or correct.

14. Two conclusions are possible now. First that there is no dispute that the Withdrawal RIA, as it stands, does not support USDA’s decision to withdraw the OLPP. Second, that whatever USDA is proposing to accomplish in further administrative procedures, the errors it has agreed exist in the Withdrawal RIA cannot be corrected by further explanation and instead must be the subject of a new and substantially different analysis.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed this 2nd day of March 2020.

Signed Copy on File

Dr. Tomislav Vukina, PhD
1513 Shadowood Lane
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612
DECLARATION OF GWENDOLYN WYARD

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Gwendolyn Wyard declare:

1. This statement is based on my personal knowledge and upon information and belief.

2. I am the Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs for the Organic Trade Association (“OTA”), the plaintiff in this case and submit this declaration in support of OTA’s opposition to USDA’s request to remand the case.

3. Among my duties is the evaluation of existing and proposed federal organic production and handling regulations and development of industry-wide analysis and comments to assist our members. I also track administrative matters like guidance documents and agency activities that relate to organic certification, the USDA seal and consistent application of the federal organic standards. I interact with our members regarding these matters including but not limited to farmers, handlers, consumers and accredited certifying agents.


5. I am informed that USDA, after more than two years of litigating, has requested a remand of the case to the USDA which requires this Court to consider whether there is ongoing
harm to OTA and its members. I have prepared this declaration to assist the Court in understanding the extent to which further delay caused by a remand will harm OTA and its members.

6. Within OTA three groups of constituents, among others, directly perceived the need for the OLPP and were very supportive of its publication.

a. OTA’s organic poultry and egg farmer members faced unfair competition in the marketplace from organic operations that benefited from the inconsistent treatment of the outdoor access requirement by accredited certifying agents that resulted in artificially lowered costs of production for competitors that did not provide meaningful outdoor access.

b. OTA’s organic poultry and egg farmer members had to obtain a separate and expensive animal welfare certification in addition to organic certification because the inconsistent treatment of the outdoor access requirement by accredited certifying agents required in some cases separate verification of livestock management practices to satisfy confused consumers and retail buyers. This further increased the cost of production.

c. OTA’s organic poultry and egg farmer members also suffered from a growing lack of consumer trust in the USDA Organic Seal because organic consumers strongly supported and believed pre-OLPP organic production practices required organic poultry to have access to the outdoors that included access to the Earth and its soil in which the animals could engage in and exhibit their natural behavior.

d. OTA’s consumer members were confused when made aware that the USDA Organic Seal was on products that did not follow a single, consistently applied national standard for organic poultry and egg production.

e. OTA’s accredited certifying agent members strongly supported a single, consistent certification requirement regarding the quality and meaning of outdoor access for poultry. The absence of single national standard for organic poultry and egg production caused inconsistent certification and enforcement outcomes that undermined the principal role of the certifying agent which is to ensure
consistent organic production and handling practices across the entire United States.

7. Because of the rescission of the OLPP in March 2018, the existing confusion in the organic marketplace was exacerbated and extended and has produced two private certification programs that include the requirements that would have been implemented had the OLPP not been rescinded. One is Regenerative Organic Certification (ROC), launched in March 2018, and the other is the Real Organic Project (ROP), launched in July 2018. See Appendix A

8. Each of these programs has the word “organic” in its name and seeks to fill the gap left by rescission and the stakeholder community’s concern that the USDA Organic Seal no longer represents the highest and best farming practices. See Appendix A The rescission of the OLPP in March 2018 (1) restored the unfair competition for certified organic poultry and egg farmers and (2) re-imposed additional and unnecessary certification costs on certified organic poultry and egg farmers and (3) damaged organic egg and poultry consumers due to market distortions caused by artificially increased organic livestock and livestock product production costs and (4) exacerbated consumer confusion regarding the meaning of the USDA Organic Seal by eliminating the single national standard consistently applied by USDA’s certifying agents with regard to livestock production required under the OLPP and (5) continues to harm ACAs which are forced to operate in a regulatory environment that lacks the clarity achieved by the OLPP.

9. The rescission of the OLPP re-introduced the many market failures sought to be cured by the OLPP and the harm to OTA members, including consumers, is ongoing and exacerbated by further delay.

10. Absent reinstatement of the OLPP OTA members are faced with a federal marketing program whose seal receives diminished consumer trust and that cannot achieve a central purpose of the Organic Foods Production Act, which is a consistent national standard for organic products that is consistently applied by the accredited certifiers.

    I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

1 The description of market disruption is not limited to poultry and egg producers, all organic livestock producers are adversely affected by rescission of the OLPP.

Declaration of Gwendolyn Wyard – OTA v. USDA
Executed this 27 day of February 2020.

Gwendolyn Wyard  
Organic Trade Association
Appendix A
(Excerpts from Private Organic Certification Websites)

https://www.realorganicproject.org/author/davec/ (last visited on Feb. 27, 2020)

“The Real Organic Project will restore organic farmers’ ability to convey that they are producing real organic food, in the tradition of pioneer farmers who began the organic movement. It is unfortunate that this add-on label is necessary, but USDA has demonstrated over the past few years that it is unwilling to uphold the full integrity of the organic label,” stated Francis Thicke, organic dairy farmer from Fairfield, Iowa, current Real Organic Project Standards Board chair and former National Organic Standards Board member.

https://www.realorganicproject.org/provisional-standards/ (last visited on Feb. 27, 2020)

“The USDA has recently embraced hydroponics and has dropped the proposed rule on animal welfare. Many farmers now feel the USDA organic label no longer adequately reflects how we farm, and many in the organic community feel a loss of identity within the label. Our community worked for years to build an organic label that people can trust.”

https://regenorganic.org/ (last visited on Feb. 27, 2020)

“In addition to requiring adherence with NOP’s organic program requirements, Regenerative Organic Certification also looks to international standards as the basis for Regenerative Organic Certification, with additional requirements included for Soil Health and Land Management, Animal Welfare, and Farmer and Worker Fairness.

Why do we need another certification system?

https://www.bard.edu/cep/blog/?p=10319 (last visited on Feb. 27, 2020)

Some particularly salient controversies have been in the press in the past few years: the inclusion of soil-less farming (namely hydroponics) under the USDA Organic label and the cancelling of an animal welfare compliance rule by the Trump administration. The
organic community was outraged by both decisions, feeling as though they had “lost the helm.”
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Harriet Behar, declare:

1. This statement is based on my personal knowledge and upon information and belief.
2. I am an organic farmer, organic inspector and I have taught organic training classes for the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) and USDA’s National Resource Conservation Service (“NRCS”) and have performed many other organic educational activities for the agricultural and food processing communities.
3. I served as a member of the USDA’s National Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”) from January 2016 to January 2020. I am the most recent past chairperson of the NOSB, having been in that role from October 2018 until October 2019.
4. I submit this declaration in support of the Organic Trade Association’s (“OTA”) opposition to the withdrawal of the Organic Livestock Production Practices (“OLPP”) final rule that was published in March 2018 and its opposition to USDA’s request for remand.
5. I was on the NOSB at the time USDA determined to delay the implementation of the OLPP in January 2017 and when USDA decided to withdraw the OLPP in March 2018. I am familiar with the OLPP and the arguments made by USDA in support of its withdrawal. I strongly disagreed with the USDA on this subject, particularly its view of the role of the NOSB.
6. While I was on the NOSB we were approached by stakeholders to add a livestock production issue to our workplan. We asked the NOP to allow us to address
inconsistencies between certifiers concerning the “outdoor access and living conditions” requirements for organic management of hogs. The “outdoor access” question for poultry had been resolved by the OLPP and at that time the USDA declined to address “outdoor access” for hogs and we believed a clarification like that for poultry was needed for organic hog production operations. We were told by the USDA that we could not address or make recommendations regarding the issue while the OTA lawsuit was pending.

7. In addition, during my time on the NOSB the breadth of the consultative role of the board was significantly reduced by USDA.

8. It is my belief that the refusal of USDA to permit the NOSB to add livestock production issues like “outdoor access” for hogs to its workplan diminished the importance of the NOSB as a means of channeling the public’s input to the Secretary, diminished our role as members of a Congressionally mandated advisory board, and reduced the ability of the NOSB to timely address issues of concern to organic farmers, handlers and consumers. I believe this destructive dimming of the NOSB’s role is ongoing. The NOSB was specifically designed to represent many stakeholders within the organic community. When the NOP prevents the NOSB from being responsive with new guidance and regulations to meet the pressing needs of those stakeholders, the greater organic community and the organic label are significantly harmed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29th day of February 2020.

Signed copy on file with counsel

Harriet Behar
Former Chairperson
National Organic Standards Board
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Case No. 1:17-cv-01875-RMC

DECLARATION OF SAM WELsch

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I, Sam Welsch declare:

1. This statement is based on my personal knowledge and upon information and belief.

2. I am a member of the Organic Trade Association. I am also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Accredited Certifiers Association (The Association”). I submit this declaration to establish that the inconsistent application of organic livestock standards that was set to be cured by the implementation of the OLPP was undercut by the withdrawal of the OLPP in March 2018 and the harm to the Association’s members, and the farmers and consumers that rely on the integrity of our work, is ongoing.

3. The Association is a non-profit educational organization composed of certifying agents that have been accredited by USDA’s National Organic Program (“NOP”) to offer organic certification services to farmers, handlers and retail operations See 7 C.F.R. Part 205, Subpart F (“Accreditation of Certifying Agents.”). Our membership includes more than 60 accredited certification agencies.

4. The Association was created, among other reasons, to provide collective feedback to the NOP, other policy makers and the public regarding organic certification services, issues that impact the integrity of organic certification and the use of the USDA’s Organic Seal.

5. Each Accredited Certifying Agent’s (“ACA”) primary mission is to ensure the integrity and consistency of organic certification in the United States and to enforce the federal organic standards on a case by case basis. ACAs are private entities that should compete

Declaration of Sam Welsch – OTA v. USDA1
with each other based on service quality, not inconsistent applications of what is
supposed to be a single national standard consistently enforced.

6. ACAs are the front-line decision makers for the federal government’s application of
federal organic production and handling standards to products across the entirety of the
nation’s organic supply chain – from on-farm production to retail sale. See 7 U.S.C. §§’s
6514-6516 (duties and requirements for accreditation) Producers, handlers and consumers
trust the USDA organic seal as an assurance of product identity because of consistent
application of the organic requirements by accredited certifying agents in the field.

Reg. at 7042-92 (published January 19, 2017)(“OLPP”) as it was the work product of
many years of effort by me, the Association, the organic community and the National
Organic Standards Board (“NOSB”). A key aspect of that rulemaking was to eliminate
inconsistency in the application of federal organic standards by accredited certifying
agents regarding outdoor access for poultry.

8. The OLPP rulemaking was based in part on the (1) March 2010 report by the USDA’s
Office of Inspector General entitled Oversight of the National Organic Program (“OIG
Report”) and (2) recommendations to the Secretary from the National Organic Standards
Board over many years. The Report found inconsistent treatment of outdoor access for
livestock producers by accredited certifying agents, and the NOSB addressed the finding
by recommending poultry operations seeking organic certification be required to
demonstrate all poultry have access to the outdoors that includes access to the earth’s soil
to permit natural behaviors and to enhance animal well-being.

9. The OIG Report and NOSB recommendations highlighted the need for clarification of
existing livestock production practices to ensure a consistent organic standard throughout
the country that was itself consistently applied by all accredited certifying agents.

10. During this time the Association’s members, me included, repeatedly urged USDA to
realize that inconsistent certification and enforcement decisions by ACAs failed to
achieve a central purpose of the Organic Foods Production Act, which is a consistent
national standard for organic products that is consistently applied by the accredited
certifiers.

Declaration of Sam Welsch – OTA v. USDA2
11. On July 11, 2016 the Association submitted a comment to the Secretary regarding the proposed OLPP noting “ACA members are very supportive of the National Organic Program efforts to establish clear, consistent requirements for organic livestock and poultry management. *** The level of detail contained in the Standard will permit more consistent enforcement, and provide operators with the management information they need to meet the requirements.” See Exhibit A at p. 1 (Copy of Association Comment).

12. The unfortunate decision to withdraw the OLPP means today’s consumers purchase organic poultry and eggs from disparate production systems that all bear the USDA’s Organic Seal. The effect of withdrawing the OLPP is that consumer products arising from such disparate systems are not being produced to a single national standard because the federal organic program standards are not being consistently applied, thus undermining the meaning and value of the USDA’s Organic Seal. Certification decisions and program enforcement decisions likewise remain inconsistent.

13. The elimination of the OLPP also means there is unfair competition for certification services because lower standards are more easily complied with, thereby favoring the businesses of accredited certifying agents that rely uncured inconsistencies to offer less strict organic oversight.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 28 day of February 2020.

[Signature]

Sam Welsch
Chairman
Accredited Certifiers Association

Declaration of Sam Welsch – OTA v. USDA3