



March 23, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Ranking Member Peterson:

We are writing to express our support for the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and the critical role it plays in the organic industry. We ask that you consider our views as businesses that interact with and depend on NOSB as you write the next Farm Bill.

The organic industry has grown from less than \$10 billion in 2002 when the federal organic standards were finalized to nearly \$50 billion today. Organic is now the fourth largest food and feed commodity class in the U.S., with organic products offered in 75% of all categories on supermarket shelves and found in over 80% of U.S. households. The growth in the organic market is not only good for our businesses, but also provides economic opportunities for U.S. farmers and choices for consumers.

NOSB is essential to the success of the organic industry in large part due to the unique public-private partnership between the industry, the public, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The organic standards, recommended by NOSB, help all interested stakeholders keep pace and evolve with changing consumer tastes and developments in sustainable agriculture.

NOSB as an advisory committee allows for a formal process to ensure transparent and public input from all stakeholders into standard-setting and decision-making processes for the USDA organic standards. The current structure of the board allows representation across the entire organic supply chain and across all scales of agriculture. Further, the NOSB process for written and oral testimony allows transparent, substantive, and diverse input from stakeholders.

NOSB is the sole authorized forum for consensus-building within the organic community, providing an opportunity to develop formal recommendations to the Secretary prior to the USDA implementing changes to the organic program. Engagement with consumers, transparency, and

sustainability are important to our businesses and our brands. We are not willing to walk away from the only forum that provides consumers, environmental scientists, farmers, ranchers, and food makers a seat at the same table.

We support the underlying law that governs the authorities and composition of the board and believe that it plays an essential role in the public's trust in organic agriculture. Making significant changes to NOSB in the Farm Bill could harm the integrity of the organic program, undermine consumer trust in the organic label, and severely damage the reputation of the industry as a whole.

The Farm Bill should not contain controversial provisions that impact the organic sector that do not have broad support among those within the organic industry. As you are leaders in our nation's agriculture policy, we respectfully request that you consider this perspective as you review policies in the Farm Bill related to NOSB.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ag Solutions Inc.
AgriSystems International
Albert Lea Seed
Alfalfa's Market Inc.
Alive Publishing Group Inc.
Amy's Kitchen
Annie's
Applegate
Aroma Naturals
Aurora Organic Dairy
Baugher Ranch Organics
Belcain Concerns
Bhakti, Inc.
Braga Fresh Family Farms
Cascadian Farm
CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers)
Charlie's Produce
Chino Valley Ranchers
Clarkson Grain Co., Inc.
Clif Bar & Company
Coconut Bliss
Cold Springs Organics
Co-op Partners Warehouse
Crystal Springs Consulting, Inc.
DanoneWave
Diestel Turkey Ranch
Dole Tropical Products Latin America Ltd.
Dove's Nest
Dr. Bronner's
Driftless Organics, LLC

Driscoll's, Inc.
Earl's Organic Produce
Earth Born Market, LLC
Earthbound Farm
Eastern Carolina Organics, LLC
Egg Innovations, LLC
Elan, Inc.
Equal Exchange Inc.
Farmer's Own Organic Produce
Farmland LP
Five Tool Farms
Flavorganics, LLC
Forager Project
Giving Trees
Global Organics, Ltd.
Good Earth Natural Foods
Grain Millers Inc.
Green Spring Farms
Greenology Products
Greenshield Organic
Grimmway/Cal-Organic
Guayaki Yerba Mate
The Hain Celestial Group, Inc.
Happy Family
Harmless Harvest, Inc.
Heath and Lejeune, Inc.
Heritage Poultry Management Services, Inc.
Horizon Organic
Ingredion Incorporated
Integrated Organic Services, Inc.
Jacobs Farm / Del Cabo, Inc.
James Wedel Farms
The J.M. Smucker Company
JW Organics
Kamut International, Ltd.
Kashi Company
KeHE Distributors
LaRocca Vineyards
Linden Hills Co-op
Lundberg Family Farms
Made in Nature, LLC
Made in Nature, Telula
Maine Coast Sea Vegetables
Maple Hill Creamery
Mars, Incorporated
MegaFood
Mercaris
MOM's Organic Market

Montana Organic Producers Coop
Muir Glen
National Co+op Grocers
Natracare LLC
Nature's Path Foods Inc.
Nature's SunGrown Foods, Inc.
Nestlé
NXT Generation Pet
Oke USA Fruit Company
Old Oak Family Farm
OMRI
On the Mark PR
Once Upon a Farm
OneCert, Inc.
Oregon Tilth
Organic Insights, Inc.
Organic Valley
Organically Grown Company
Oyster Bay Farm
Pacific Soybean & Grain, Inc.
Patagonia Provisions
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)
Pete and Gerry's Organics
Phillips Mushroom Farms
Pleasantview Farm
Prairie Ventures, LLC
Presence Marketing/ Dynamic Presence
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
Quality Certification Services (QCS)
Raile Farms
Ridgeland Harvest LLC
Riega Foods, LLC
Salba Corp
Shenandoah Growers, Inc.
South Tex Organics, LLC
Stonyfield
Straus Family Creamery
SunOpta
Sustainable Strategies LLC
Tanimura & Antle
Texas Organic Cotton Marketing Cooperative
TLC—Todd Linsky Consulting
Tradin Organics USA
Tropical Sources, Inc.
True Organic Products, Inc.
Twin Cities Co-op Partners
Uncle Matt's Organic
United Natural Foods, Inc.

Urban Remedy
VanMol Organics, LLC
Veritable Vegetable
Vermont Soap
Vilicus Farms
Vital Farms, Inc.
Wallaby Yogurt Company
Wedge Co-op
Whole Foods Market
Wholesome Sweeteners Inc.
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates
Yorkshire Valley Farms