



C O R N U C O P I A
I N S T I T U T E

February 13, 2017

Gregory Bridges
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Stop 0202, Room 3521, South Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-0237
Sent via email: AMS.FOIA@usda.gov

FOIA REQUEST
Fee waiver requested

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Pursuant to the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting that the USDA and National Organic Program provide records from the appointments process to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) for Ms. Carmela Beck and Ms. Ashley Swaffar.

We request the decision making matrix used for evaluating their appointments through comparison to other NOSB applicants. We are not requesting the formal applications they submitted for appointment to the NOSB. We further request all other records, in addition to the decision-making matrix, that evaluate or offer any opinion or judgment on the applications of Ms. Beck and Ms. Swaffar.

In its role as a government watchdog, The Cornucopia Institute employs doctorate-level researchers and policy analysts with decades of experience on issues of food and agriculture policy. For more information on our capacity to review and analyze government documents, see the about section of our webpage (www.cornucopia.org).

With over 10,000 members, many of whom are organic farmers, The Cornucopia Institute is the largest member-organization of its kind. Through our email list of over 100,000 people, our quarterly newsletter, and other outreach tools, we communicate the information acquired through our requests to keep the public informed and

knowledgeable about the actions of the USDA.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Please send materials to the following address:

The Cornucopia Institute
P.O. Box 126
Cornucopia, WI
54827

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Cole".

Jason Cole
Research Associate
The Cornucopia Institute