



CORNUCOPIA
I N S T I T U T E

March 23, 2016

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 the following:

- 1) The section(s) of the contractor proposal for the limited scope technical review for carrageenan submitted by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) to the National Organic Program (NOP) and dated February 10, 2016 that identifies the OMRI employee(s) or contractor(s) who prepared the 2016 carrageenan technical review, and/or describes the qualifications of said employee(s) or contractor(s). The technical review I am referring to can be found on the NOP's website here: https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Carrageenan%20TR%202010_16.pdf.
- 2) Any and all additional documents that include any reference, description or summary of the identity and qualifications of the OMRI employee(s) or contractor(s) who prepared the 2016 carrageenan technical review.
- 3) Any and all documents that address potential conflicts of interest by OMRI or individual employee(s) or contractor(s) working on the carrageenan technical review project.

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 black ink that reads "Jason Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jason Cole
Research Associate
The Cornucopia Institute