



**CORNUCOPIA**  
I N S T I T U T E

**October 20, 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](mailto: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 all records, from October 1, 2012 through the receipt of this request, that discuss or describe any adverse actions or enforcement actions taken, proposed or considered, against any NOP accredited certifier. This includes, but is not limited to, all preliminary documents, such as notices of non-compliances, notices of proposed suspensions and proposed revocations, and all final documents outlining enforcement actions. These should include proposed or executed settlement and consent agreements between certifiers and the USDA.

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](http://www.cornucopia.org)).

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