



CORNUCOPIA
I N S T I T U T E

April 3, 2014

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
FOIA/PA Officer
Rm 3521-S
Ag Stop 0202
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0273

Sent via email: AMS.FOIA@USDA.GOV

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Pursuant to the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting information regarding USDA's decision to modify the National Organic Program's sunset review process (Notification of Sunset Process, Federal Register on 9-16-13, 78 FR 56811).

I am requesting copies of all internal or external correspondence, communications and other documents between the USDA and any outside individual or entity regarding the sunset process or other aspects of the NOSB materials review process (in addition to sunset also relating to initial review of petitions for addition to the national List). Such communications include but are not limited to letters, emails, meeting and phone conference notes, phone logs and other forms of correspondence, also including personal cell phones or cell phones utilized by staff or appointees for USDA business whereby those cell phones are owned by individuals or entities other than the USDA.

Specifically, we request all correspondence between Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program and Jennifer Taylor, NOSB member, Mark Lipson USDA Organic Policy Advisor, anyone who held the position of administrator of the AMS during the period in question, anyone who held the position of Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

We are interested in reviewing all documents from February 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014.

As I am making this request as a policy researcher for a not-for-profit public interest and research organization, please waive any applicable fees. Also, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or e-mail, rather than by the United States Postal Service, if you have questions regarding this request.

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 style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Cole
Research Associate
The Cornucopia Institute
608-625-2000
cole@cornucopia.org