



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

**June 27, 2014**

Carrie Helmsold  
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 benefit requested**

**Fee waiver requested**

Dear Ms. Helmsold:

Pursuant to the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting the names and background information on all individuals who have applied for one of the four vacancies open on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and noticed by the USDA on March 11, 2014.

At this point we are not asking for all documents related to an individual who has been nominated, or nominated themselves, to serve on the NOSB. We will limit our request to their applications. If it would expedite the matter we would, initially, except a summary document that included a listing of all their names and any related professional affiliations.

Although it will be understandable if the Department redacts some personal information such as cell phone numbers, social security numbers, etc., we will not view withholding these documents in their entirety as legally complying with this request and will vigorously pursue administrative and judicial remedies if done so.

To be clear, we are not seeking any confidential information related to the application of any individual for the NOSB, simply their names and professional backgrounds/qualifications as provided to the Department in support of their application.

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. Since our request is very concise in nature, likely not requiring extensive review of correspondence or other material, we expect that this can be complied with without the USDA requesting any extension.

Please send materials to the following address:

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Will Fantle, Codirector  
The Cornucopia Institute