



CORNUCOPIA  
INSTITUTE

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**YES**, I want to join with other organic farmers and consumers in sending a strong message to President Obama and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack for decisive action reforming the National Organic Program—protecting ethical farmers and consumers.

\$30  \$50  \$100  \$250

\$500  \$1000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed  
 Charge my:  VISA  Master Card

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*Please print carefully*

FA-09W

*Your financial contribution is voluntary, but we hope you will support the campaign to protect the livelihood of organic farmers. No donation is required to have your proxy letter hand-delivered by us to Washington.*

**Yes**, please hand-deliver my signed proxy letter, below, to both the White House and office of the USDA Secretary in Washington, D.C., so that I can make my voice heard in supporting the integrity of the organic label (add additional personal comments on back).

### PLEASE DO NOT DETACH PROXY LETTER

*We will mechanically cut letter off before submitting*

**Dear President Obama and Secretary Vilsack,**

There is a crisis of confidence at the USDA's National Organic Program. The NOP is dysfunctional. Senior program management has treated industry stakeholders arrogantly and overridden NOP career staff when their findings might harm corporate interests.

We need change at the "People's Department," as President Lincoln so aptly called this agency, with new management to create a culture supporting the thousands of ethical family farmers, and their consumer allies, who have built this vibrant market.

The NOP needs to uphold Congressional intent by:

1. **Acting on the advice and counsel of the National Organic Standards Board.** Scores of policy resolutions it has passed have never been reviewed or implemented.
2. **Deficiencies outlined in audits** prepared by the American National Standards Institute and the Inspector General's office **must be addressed.**
3. The **Peer Review Panel** of experts and **Technical Advisory Panels** (TAP) need to be funded and seated.
4. **Seats on the NOSB** were specifically set aside to assure diverse representation by all stakeholders in the industry (farmers, certifiers, consumers, retailers, manufacturers, environmentalists, etc.). This mandate has been distorted and needs to be fully respected.
5. **The NOP has operated in secret** concerning certification documents, enforcement actions and fulfilling FOIA requests. **The industry needs full transparency.**
6. **Factory farms** have abused the spirit and letter of organic law and must be reined in. Lax **oversight of imports**, amounting to unfair competition and potential defrauding of consumers, needs to be immediately addressed.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ (farmer/consumer/retailer/other) I look forward to supporting the new administration in Washington with a renewed sense of hope that the USDA will become a full and respected partner in the organic community.

Respectfully yours,

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_