

Yes! Please hand-deliver my signed proxy letter, below, to the members of the National Organic Standards Board.

Dear NOSB members,

Please discontinue certifying all hydroponic and aquaponic operations for the following reasons:

1. The organic certification of soil-less operations violates the Organic Food Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), which requires maintaining and improving soil fertility as the foundation of organic agriculture. The biological diversity and complexity in a soil system cannot be replicated in water to produce the environmental benefits and nutrient-dense food organic consumers expect.
2. The NOSB's 2010 formal recommendations on the "Production Standard for Terrestrial Plants in Containers and Enclosures (Greenhouses)" specifically states that "hydroponics and aeroponic systems are prohibited." The NOP's decision to allow organic certification of hydroponic systems is in violation of their legal responsibility to follow OFPA (the statute for setting standards).
3. OFPA "assure(s) consumers that organically produced products meet a consistent standard." The 2010 NOSB recommendations are consistent with international standards. Twenty-four EU countries, Canada, Mexico, and recommendations from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) prohibit organic certification of hydroponics and limit container growing to the sale of annual seedlings.
4. The "Keep the Soil in Organic" movement has strong support from many farmers who founded the organic movement and organizations representing over 2.2 million organic stakeholders. Organic farmer and Hydroponic Task Force Member, Dave Chapman stated that if the certification of hydroponics is not discontinued, **"Between hydroponics and animal welfare, we will have lost organic as a word describing our way of farming."**
5. Soil bacteria and fungi provide plants with minerals obtained from the mineral fractions of the soil. Carbon, captured from the atmosphere, returns as organic matter to the soil. Healthy soil should be the primary source of fertility for organic crops, not the continuous feeding of liquid nutrients.

I urge you to consider the enormous negative impact on U.S. farmers from imported hydroponic fruits and vegetables flooding U.S. markets, especially given the fact that hydroponic produce cannot legally be labeled organic in the countries of origin. Please consider the harm to organic integrity when standards are inconsistent and the founders of the organic movement disagree with USDA policy makers.

Name: _____

Stakeholder Type (farmer, processor, retailer, consumer, etc.): _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

HYDRO-E-16

Yes! Count me in! Please keep me informed about this and other issues supporting the good food movement.
No donation is necessary to hand-deliver your proxy letter to the NOSB, but please consider supporting this campaign

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

My check is enclosed Visa MasterCard American Express Discover



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Card #: _____ Expiration: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Email: _____

Other than submitting your proxy letter to the USDA, none of your confidential/personal information will be shared.
Please return to: The Cornucopia Institute, P.O. Box 126, Cornucopia, WI 54827

HYDRO-E-16