

Yes! Please deliver my letter to my USDA accredited certifier.

Dear _____ CEO,
(Name of certifier)

As my certifier I need you to be fully supportive of my efforts as a responsible farmer in protecting the integrity and reputation of the organic label in the eyes of my customers.

If you wish to retain my business the next time I renew my certification, I respectfully request that you go on the record and join me in retaining and protecting the true meaning that the organic farming and food movement was founded upon. My requirements are simple:

1. Instead of standing with other members of the accredited certifier trade group, I ask that you be transparent with Cornucopia researchers by **filling out their survey and having an officer of your organization sign and stand behind the representations you make.**
2. If you have certified any **dairy CAFOs** please institute a moratorium on certifying any with a stocking density of more than three cows per acre, any fields that are counted as "pasture" that are planted with annuals in desert-like climates, any operations milking more than two times per day, and any dairies that bring in cattle that were not managed organically from the last third of gestation as the regulations clearly require.
3. If you have certified any **egg laying operations that substitute an enclosed porch to meet the legal requirement for "outdoor" access**, I ask that you place an immediate moratorium on certifying any additional operations of that nature. The law states that all organic livestock must have access to the outdoors. In addition, hens in most of these aviary systems cannot access the outdoors.
4. The Organic Foods Production Act and the federal regulations both clearly require careful soil stewardship as a prerequisite for organic certification. If you have certified any **hydroponic operations**, you should immediately implement a moratorium on certifying any produce that does not have its roots in the ground (with the exception of sprouts and other similar vegetables and plants, seedlings, or culinary spices that are sold in their initial containers).

It is critical that ethical certifiers breakaway from their unethical peers that skirt the rules and diminish the value of the entire industry for their own personal gain. These are simple requests and certainly not anything radical. Managing livestock with a more humane level of welfare has always been part of organics. And the mantra "feed the soil not the plants" has been a foundational precept of organic growing since the movement was formed.

Please side with my family and the other ethical farmers, ranchers, and growers whose livelihoods depend on the reputation of the organic label.

Sincerely yours,

_____, _____ I produce: _____
Name Location

If my name, location and/or commodities/products are withheld it is because I am concerned about possible retribution. Cornucopia staff has confirmed my identity, and certified status by you, on the NOP database, before forwarding this letter.

Please feel free to write additional comments to your certifier on the back of this page.

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Do not detach from coupon below— after verification, using the NOP database, we will remove it before forwarding your letter.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Yes! Count me in! Please keep me in the loop on this campaign and add me to your membership/ mailing list.

No donation is necessary to have your proxy letter delivered to your certifier.

However, please consider financially supporting our nonprofit organization and this campaign by contributing what you can.

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

My check is enclosed Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

We will never sell or share your contact information! Please see our website for our privacy policy.



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Card #: _____ Expiration: _____ Phone: _____

Please return to: The Cornucopia Institute, P.O. Box 126, Cornucopia, Wisconsin 54827

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