

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue  
Department of Agriculture  
Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are deeply disappointed by your proposal to eliminate the new organic standard on animal welfare.

This is an affront to the many people and organizations engaged in a multi-year, transparent, and highly participatory process that resulted in an animal welfare standard overwhelmingly supported by organic farmers, organic companies, humane animal care advocates, and consumers.

Please remember that farmers choose to be organic and adhere to strict standards. We support this voluntary regulatory program on which the \$50 billion organic industry depends. The program is an outstanding example of how private initiatives can marry public process and it has had strong bipartisan approval from its inception.

Organic farmers have pioneered new practices to enhance animal welfare because consumers demand it and because it makes farms more resilient and profitable. Eliminating the rule not only fails to acknowledge innovation in the organic farming sector and provide fair and transparent rules, it also undermines the faith people have in how organic agriculture is governed.

We implore you to restore the organic animal welfare standard. Businesses depend upon it, and consumers expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

**Organic Valley**  
George Siemon  
Chief Executive Officer

**Stonyfield Organic**  
Gary Hirshberg  
Chairman & Co-Founder

**Applegate**

Gina Asoudegan  
Senior Director of Mission

**Clif**

Kevin Cleary  
Chief Executive Officer

**Maple Hill Creamery**

Tim Joseph  
Founding Father

**Dr. Bronner's**

David Bronner  
Cosmic Engagement Officer (CEO)

**Horizon Organic**

Tyler Holm  
General Manager

**Vital Farms**

Matt O'Hayer  
Chief Executive Officer

**Pete And Gerry's Organic Eggs**

Jesse Laflamme  
Chief Executive Officer

**Lundberg Family Farms**

Grant Lundberg  
Chief Executive Officer

**Nature's Path**

Dag Falck  
Organic Program Manager

**Amy's Kitchen**

John O'Keefe  
Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs

**H.P. Hood**

Jeffrey Kaneb  
Executive Vice President

**Garden of Life**

Jeffrey Brams

General Counsel and VP Science and International

**Traditional Medicinals**

Blair Kellison

Chief Executive Officer

**GoMacro**

Tony Saarem

Director of Operations

**Retail****Whole Foods Market**

John Mackey

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

**National Co+op Grocers**

Robynn Shrader

Chief Executive Officer

**United Natural Foods, UNFI**

Melody L. Meyer

Vice President CSR, Policy & Industry Relations

**Organic****Organic Trade Association**

Laura Batcha

Chief Executive Officer

**Organic Farming Research Foundation**

Brise Tencer

Executive Director

**National Organic Coalition**

Abby Youngblood

Executive Director

**Rodale Institute**

Jeff Moyer  
Executive Director

**The Organic Center**

Dr. Jessica Shade  
Director of Science Programs

**Organic Consumers Association**

Ronnie Cummins  
Co-Founder and International Director

**Montana Organic Association**

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Board Chairman

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont**

Enid Wonnacott  
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**Northeast Organic Farming Association Interstate Council**

Steve Gilman  
Policy Coordinator

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut**

Jeff Cordulack  
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**Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts**

Laura Davis  
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**Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire**

Sarah Laeng-Gilliatt  
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**Angelic Organics Learning Center**

Thomas Spaulding  
Executive Director

**Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services**

John Mesko  
Executive Director

**Georgia Organics**

Alice Rolls  
Executive Director

**Wild Farm Alliance**

Jo Ann Baumgartner  
Executive Director

**CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers)**

Cathy Calfo  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

**IFOAM North America**

Brian Baker  
President

**Organic Seed Alliance**

Cara Loriz  
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**Certifiers**

**Accredited Certifiers Association**

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**Oregon Tilth**

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**CCOF Certification Services, LLC**

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**Pennsylvania Certified Organic**

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**Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc**

Marty Mesh  
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**OneCert, Inc.**

Sam Welsch  
President

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Your Certified Organic, LLC**

Lori Kenyon  
Certification Director

**Nature's International Certification Services**

Chris Fanta  
Co-Executive Director

**Farm**

**National Farmers Union**

Roger Johnson  
President

**National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**

Greg Fogel  
Policy Director

**Farm Aid**

Carolyn Mugar  
Executive Director

**National Family Farm Coalition**

Ben Burkett  
President

**National Young Farmers Coalition**

Lindsey Lusher Shute  
Executive Director & Co-Founder

**California Farmers Union  
California Dairy Campaign**

Lynne McBride  
Executive Director

**Iowa Farmers Union**

Aaron Lehman  
President

**Kansas Farmers Union**

Donn Teske  
President

**Michigan Farmers Union**

Bob Thompson  
President

**Minnesota Farmers Union**

Gary Wertish  
President

**New England Farmers Union**

Roger Noonan  
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**Wisconsin Farmers Union**

Tom Quinn  
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**Rural Advancement Foundation International**

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**Dakota Rural Action**

Frank James  
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**Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture**

Hannah Smith-Brubaker  
Executive Director

**Center for Rural Affairs**

Brian Depew  
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**Michael Fields Agricultural Institute**

Margaret Krome  
Policy Program Director

**Organic Farmers Association**

Jim Riddle  
Steering Committee Chair

**Consumer**

**The Humane Society of the United States**

Wayne Pacelle  
President & CEO

**Environmental Working Group**

Ken Cook  
President

**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Rhea Suh  
President

**Consumer Federation of America**

Stephen Brobeck  
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**Center for Science in the Public Interest**

Peter Lurie  
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**Union of Concerned Scientists**

Kenneth Kimmell  
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**Food & Water Watch**

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**Beyond Pesticides**

Jay Feldman  
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**Food Tank**

Diane Nierenberg  
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**Ceres Community Project**

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**Friends of the Earth**

Lisa Archer  
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