

# United States Senate

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
United States Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

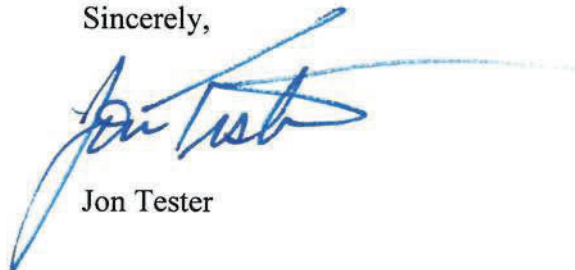
Secretary Vilsack:

I write today to urge you to swiftly implement the National Organic Standards Board's (NOSB) recent policy recommendations. The NOSB crafts its recommendations by gathering substantial public input from a wide-array of stakeholders and consulting with experts. This collaborative process driven by public input is vital to consumer confidence in the organic label. That's why I ask that you prioritize implementing NOSB recommendations as you begin your work at USDA.

Over the last decade, the NOSB has made many recommendations to improve the organic agriculture industry. These rules range from strengthening certified organic seed usage to livestock transitioning and represent collaborative efforts between producers, processors, ecologists, and business owners. Several of these important recommendations have been put on hold, reversed by the Trump Administration, or are moving through the rulemaking process at a glacial pace. For example, the Strengthen Organic Enforcement Rule will protect organic producers from fraudulent products both domestically and internationally. This will help grow the organic agriculture industry and support economic growth in Montana communities.

I urge you to review all of the NOSB's outstanding recommendations and finalize these critical rules. I stand ready to work with you to support all of Montana's farmers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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