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TMD-94-00-2

Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator

USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, AG Stop 0275, Room 4007-So.

P.O. Box 96456

Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

Spt
AA
3-17-98

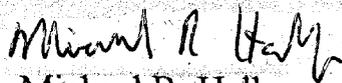
Dear Ms. Stommes,

I am writing in response to the proposed National Organic Standards to let you know that I strongly oppose the use of genetically engineered organisms, irradiation, and sewage sludge under the Organic label. I also ask that the standards for the treatment of livestock in organic and the fee structure for certification be consistent with the NOSB's recommendations.

As a retailer of Certified Organic products, I have an insider's view of what drives the organic market. People are willing to pay the premium for organic products strictly because they believe the organic label to ensure the highest standard of purity. If the standards which the USDA recently proposed were to be implemented, then without a doubt the organic industry would suffer heavy losses. People's faith in the organic label would dissolve, and the committed producers would be forced to create a new standard (other than organic) which would maintain the principles of health, purity, and sustainability on which the organic industry was founded.

I, along with the financial power of all the supporters of the NOSB, urge you to stand by the NOSB's recommendations and assist, rather than damage, the growing organic industry. Thank you for including my input in your decision.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Halley

Co-owner, Natural Selections, Inc.

104 S. Main St.

Fairfield, IA 52556

1/28/98

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