

Organic Consumers Association

Campaigning for Food Safety, Organic Agriculture,
Fair Trade & Sustainability

Dear Senator,

As a nationwide organization representing 750,000 organic consumers, including thousands of your constituents, the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) urges you to reject all authorizing language amendments to the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) when you take up consideration of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. We believe that proposed draft amendment language will undermine organic integrity and consumer faith in the “USDA Organic” seal. The overwhelming majority (85%) of U.S. consumers do not want synthetic ingredients in products labeled as “organic,” nor any other federal laws or amendments to be passed that lower organic standards.

OCA strongly believes that it is not a good idea to reopen the entire Organic Food Production Act (OFPA) for Congressional revisions at this time, but rather to use the USDA rulemaking process, whereby the organic community and the NOSB will propose rule changes to the USDA that are published in the Federal Register and then subjected to a full comment period.

Organic agriculture is the fastest growing component of our food and farming system. It not only safeguards public health and the environment, but also provides what is likely the only viable economic future for the nation’s small and medium-sized farmers. At current rates of growth, in 20 years, most food sold in U.S. grocery stores will be organic. Now is not the time to reopen OFPA, nor to lower organic standards along the lines that some industry groups are advocating. We appreciate your timely attention to this to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Cummins, National Director, Organic Consumers Association