



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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July 15, 2009

Katherine E. Benham
Advisory Board Specialist
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP
Room 4004-So., Ag Stop 0268
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Benham:

I am writing to submit my nomination for the open environmentalist position on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). I believe that my background, work and deep roots in the environmental community will enable me to bring an important perspective to the deliberations of the board. The composition of the NOSB and the categories of membership establish an important diversity that brings a richness and strong foundation to the decision making process that will enable organic food production to continue to grow with greater public support. I would be pleased to be a part of that process.

As you can see from the attached resume, my 30 years of work on environmental issues as they affect our health and the environment brings an important perspective to the NOSB's deliberations. In my work, with a focus on the stewardship of our land, air and water, and protection of public health, I have had the opportunity to work closely with farmers, farmworkers, consumers, health care practitioners, environmentalists, a wide range of communities nationwide, and organizations that represent their interests.

I believe that the diversity of stakeholders on the NOSB is critical to the advancement of organic. An environmental view on the board is an important perspective that can be well-served by an individual who has strong ties to the environmental community, works with the cross section of people and organizations that comprise it, is connected to grassroots activities nationwide, and is sensitive to local, state, and national efforts that connect people as environmentalists. I believe I am such a person. With this background and experience, I know that I can help inform the deliberations on materials and practices.

I was among those who contributed to the crafting of laws that have advanced organic and sustainable agriculture, including the *Agricultural Productivity Act* and the *Organic Foods Production Act*, and therefore have a deep commitment to their successful

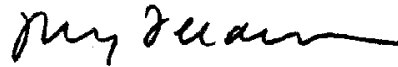
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implementation. It would be an honor to serve on the NOSB and collaborate with the National Organic Program.

The growth of commercial organic food production has been an exciting development over the last several decades. Organic practices, as embodied in the *Organic Foods Production Act*, have a sound foundation based on principles that are respectful of the earth, those who work the land, and all who eat its bounty. As we move forward, we can and must build on what has been achieved as a key part of the greening of our nation's economy and the vision for a sustainable future.

I am attaching endorsement list of 85 organizations, as well as individual letters of endorsement for your consideration. Thank you for accepting my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Feldman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay Feldman
Executive Director

Enclosures

Resume
Endorsement List
Letter of Support