

AD HOC GMO COMMITTEE

Letter to Secretary Vilsack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cornucopia applauds the members of the Ad Hoc GMO Committee for taking the initiative to communicate to Secretary Vilsack the organic community's concerns with GMO contamination of organic crops and foods. We urge the Board to approve the letter and summarily send it to Secretary Vilsack.

We support the Board's unfettered right, backed by the will of Congress, to communicate with the Secretary at any time on any issue they deem of importance to the organic community.

LETTER TO SECRETARY VILSACK

Cornucopia applauds the members of the Ad Hoc GMO Committee for taking the initiative to communicate to Secretary Vilsack the organic community's concerns with GMO contamination of organic crops and foods.

We agree with the Ad Hoc GMO Committee that the "USDA's actions to date on genetically engineered crops have been insufficient to protect the organic industry," and that "organic farmers must no longer be held solely responsible to prevent contamination from practices outside their control."

We have been very concerned with the Obama/Vilsack administration's support of GMOs and the biotechnology industry, and the threat of contamination that this poses to organic crops and foods.

We agree with the Ad Hoc GMO Committee's letter that "the GMO technology should share the burden that organic farmers now assume in mitigating the gene flow between farms and should compensate organic farmers for genetic drift." We imagine that most, if not all, organic farmers and organizations concerned with organic agriculture share this concern. We therefore appreciate the Ad Hoc GMO Committee for taking the initiative to represent the organic community in communicating these concerns to Secretary Vilsack.

We urge the Board to approve the letter and summarily send it to Secretary Vilsack.