



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy



March 19, 2013

Ms. Ann Michelle Arsenault
National Organic Standards Board
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., SW.
Room 2646-So., Ag Stop 0268
Washington, DC 20250-0268

Docket: AMS-NOP-12-0070; NOP-12-17

RE: NOSB Policy Development Subcommittee Proposal on Public Communications

Dear Ms. Arsenault and NOSB,

CCOF thanks the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) for the opportunity to comment on the Policy Development Subcommittee Proposal on Public Communications

We appreciate the Policy Committee's consideration of how to best manage public communications to the NOSB. We support the proposal for a year-round docket. The NOSB's task is a significant one and input from the public is critical to the process of deliberations on national organic standards.

We believe that the development of a year-round online communication mechanism would enable thoughtful feedback on issues, provide an opportunity to identify new or emerging issues, prioritize issues, and share timely developments in thinking.

We thank the Policy Development Subcommittee for its effort on this topic.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cathy Calfo in black ink.

Cathy Calfo, Executive Director/CEO

Handwritten signature of Jake Lewin in black ink.

Jake Lewin, Chief Certification Officer

CCOF is a nonprofit organization founded in 1973. It is one of the oldest and largest organic certification agencies in North America. CCOF serves as a trade association for more than 2,600 certified organic producers and 300 supporting members in 38 states and 3 countries.