

Dear Senator:

As a consumer and supporter of organic agriculture, I am writing to ask that you reject proposed amendments to the Organic Foods Production Act that are being offered by the food industry as part of the Senate Agricultural Appropriations bill.

Consumers depend on the integrity of the organic label and are willing to pay a premium price in the marketplace for products produced under exacting standards. The Senate should act to ensure that these standards are not undermined.

Unfortunately, the proposed industry amendments will weaken the organic law and threaten the meaning of food labeled as “organic.” The law changes could permanently allow numerous new synthetic processing aids and food contact substances, including over 500 food contact substances, to be used in organic foods without any type of public review for their safety and compatibility with organic production, could allow young dairy cows to be treated with antibiotics and then be converted to organic after twelve months; and would create a serious new loophole in which organic ingredients could be substituted with non-organic ingredients based upon “emergency decrees” without any consumer notice.

Please act in the best interest of the entire organic community by rejecting the industry’s amendments and giving all the supporters of organic agriculture an opportunity to develop solutions to these issues.

Sincerely,