

**Public Comment, 2020 Fall NOSB meeting
October 22, 2020**

Good afternoon.

In tandem with my husband Robert and daughter Christine I own and operate a 320 acre diversified, certified organic, family farm in west central Wisconsin.

We are certified in three scopes: livestock, crops, and processing and direct market the bulk of our meat, produce and forage.

We celebrated becoming a century farm in 2019.

I want you to know that over the last 26 years we have diligently worked to meet and exceed the spirit and the letter of Title 7 CFR part 205.

Organic certification provided the gateway to us, and thousands of others, to use the USDA certified organic seal. AMS was charged with making sure that the seal not be used in a way that would negatively impact the value and integrity of the seal. The seal was to be reserved as a marketing tool for products that met or exceeded the National Organic Standards.

I am here to insist that the integrity and value of the USDA certified organic seal be rehabilitated and that any further theft of its value and integrity be stopped. If that requires decertifying multi-million dollar industrial operations, then that's what it requires, be it dairy, beef, poultry, eggs, grains, or hydro. Essayist Martin Shaw advised that "we lose touch with our wingspan when we hunch." It is past time to stand ramrod straight, regain your wingspan, and either recommend that rehabilitation of the seal be taken directly by the NOP administrators or that the NOP order their "accredited certifying agents" to do the job.

I have served on The Cornucopia Institute Board of Directors since its inception and remain on the board determined to gain some resolution for American farmers that still believe in what the USDA certified organic seal stood for, (and still legally does) before it was co-opted.

The farmers, ranchers and processors who had the foresight to recognize that organic food and fiber could not be produced simply through avoidance of prohibited inputs but, instead, that it must be produced on a foundation of continual improvement and enhancement of the soil and surrounding ecosystem...these producers have the moral authority to demand that the integrity and value of the seal be restored.

If "right equals might" it should be easy to inform those that have turned "organic" production into a natural resource mining operation...to inform them that they must either come into compliance or be decertified.

Importing feed, fertilizers, sexed semen, and even soil while failing to positively impact the surrounding ecosystem may produce satisfactory food and fiber.

It does NOT produce certified organic food or fiber per Title 7 CFR part 205.

With hope in my heart and determination in hand I thank you for your service and efforts.