



The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0501

March 2, 2018

Dear Mr. LaMalfa,

The undersigned organic farmers and businesses in the First Congressional District of California write to thank you for cosponsoring the Organic Agriculture Research Act of 2017 (H.R. 2436) and to request your cosponsorship of the Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act of 2017 (H.R. 3871).

Your leadership in supporting H.R. 2436 has been widely celebrated by California's organic producers who, as a result, will greatly benefit from increased research and development of farming practices that improve soil health, control pests and disease, and increase crop yields. We now respectfully request your cosponsorship of H.R. 3871, which will complement H.R. 2436 by ensuring NOP has sufficient resources to maintain enforcement over a growing and increasingly complex marketplace.

Introduced by Rep. John Faso (R-NY-19), H.R. 3871 would strengthen National Organic Program (NOP) enforcement resources to ensure broad oversight over the entire domestic and international supply chain, including the increase in organic imports. Specifically, H.R. 3871 would:

- Authorize a modest increase for NOP funding to keep pace with the growth of the organic sector (10% over the life of the farm bill above the \$15 million per year authorization in the 2014 Farm Bill).
- Mandate one-time funding to modernize international trade oversight (\$5 million for technology systems upgrades to improve electronic records and traceability).
- Ensure robust, collaborative fraud investigations across all responsible agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- Require annual compliance reports to Congress on domestic and overseas enforcement.

Notably, H.R. 3871 would provide NOP with the same modest mandatory funding as provided in the 2014 Farm Bill. NOP already has an effective enforcement infrastructure, but it needs additional resources to update its technologies to ensure it can quickly conduct investigations overseas while also maintaining oversight over domestic production.

We urge you to protect California's organic producers and consumers by cosponsoring the Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

Phil LaRocca
LaRocca Vineyards

Kurt Albrecht
Chaffin Family Orchards

Darrell Wood
Levitt Lake Ranches

Teresa Cortese
Elysian Valley Ranch

Tim Schultz
Lundberg Family Farms

Wade Hough
Gaea's Garden

Shasta Livestock

Dan Chase
4-C Farming

Logan & Dallice Nuttal
Nuttal Ranch

Bruce Lopes
Charles Lopes & Sons

John & Armen Carlon
Sierra Cascade Blueberry Farm

Deena Miller
Sweet Roots Farm

Kurt Johnson
Johnson Moonlight Farm

Mary Ocasion
Churn Creek Meadow Organic Farm

Cynthia Daley
Sweet Grass Organics

Gerald & Ryan Fillmore
Fillmore Farms

Nathan Bunting
Outback DVBE / Lazy Spade, LLC

Lucca McCaleb
Smartsville Organics

Randi Pratini
Fresh Starts Organic Farm

Mario Peralta
Belcampo Butchery