

Newman letter

Bradley M. Campbell 05/28/98 02:36:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Robert S. Kapla/CEQ/EOP

cc:

Subject:

Tom: CEQ received for response a note from Paul Newman to the POTUS enclosing his comments to USDA on the organic standards. I drafted the following brief reply, but will of course defer to you since DPC has been more heavily involved than we. Robert Kapla (6-6531) is processing the letter if you have any concerns or comments

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your note and for your submission to Secretary Glickman on organic food and farming standards. I strongly agree that our policies must honor the expectations of consumers who choose organic products for their families. As you may be aware, the concerns you raised were echoed in a torrent of comments from concerned citizens and a broad range of public interest groups. I am pleased to report that Secretary Glickman substantially revised the standards to respond to the concerns that you and others had raised. I hope that you were pleased with the final rule

Hillary and I send our fondest regards to you and Joanne.

PRINT DOC REQUESTED: MAY 31, 1998

104PK2

2 DOCUMENTS PRINTED

8 PRINTED PAGES

SEND TO: SMITH, MARY
OPD - DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL
ROOM 308
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20502-0308

*****00942*****

May 29, 1998

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter which comments on the proposed national organic standards.

As you may know, on May 8, 1998, the Department of Agriculture announced that it would make fundamental changes to its proposed national organic standards as a result of comments received on the initial proposal. USDA announced that biotechnology, irradiation, and biosolids would not be included in the revised proposal, and food produced with these products and practices would not be allowed to bear the organic label. Before publishing the revised proposal, USDA will evaluate the comments submitted in response to the December 1997 proposal. This record will guide the drafting of the revised proposal, which USDA will issue for public comment later this year.

I thank you for your comments and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

21 Oct 1944

Turn - ~~_____~~
 Please to a reply
 for the President.
 Elmer

Enc

PHOTOCOPY
MISC. HANDWRITING

PN/do
Enclosure

Kleinburg
Road
new &
regr.

PAUL NEWMAN

April 30, 1998

Ms. Eileen Stommes
Deputy Administrator
USDA-AM-TM-NOP, Room 4007
Ag Stop 0275, P.O. Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-6456

Dear Ms. Stommes:

I wish to submit comment on the proposed rule for the National Organic Standards docket # TMD-94-00-2.

Several years ago my daughter, Nell, started the organic arm of Newman's Own. The company flourishes, holds to the highest standards, and gives its after tax profits to charity.

The Organic Farming movement was founded with the concept that consumers in America ought to be given the opportunity to put food on the table that was not contaminated by synthetic, artificial, and, in many cases, dangerous chemicals, and that they had a fundamental right to know how their food was grown.

In 1989 the organic industry came to the USDA and proposed that, instead of each state having their own organic standards, the government create a national organic standard. It is not often that an industry asks to be regulated. Well, the regulations came out and, unfortunately, like many government efforts, were soiled and mutilated in intent by special interest groups.

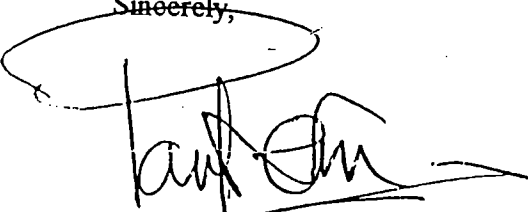
The USDA basically rejected five years of detailed input from the National Organic Standards Board and rewrote the law, it appears, to aid and comfort heads of bio-technology, pesticide manufacturers, the dairy, cattle, and poultry industry. The USDA having repudiated farmers and consumers, by making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on approved and prohibited substances. Contrary to the NOSB recommendation, USDA has raised the question whether synthetic substances, sewage sludge, synthetic fertilizers, pesticides be allowed in organic production systems. These questions, which never should have been proposed in the first place, hide the numerous

Ms. Eileen Stommes
April 30, 1998
Page Two

defects in the proposed rule itself. For example, adopting unwarranted criteria to accept what they define as "incidental additives," allowing illegal substances, which were never recommended by the NOSB to the Secretary of Agriculture, but were actually opposed officially.

It is heartbreaking to see the idealism of the organic movement subverted, especially when they placed their faith in a government they trusted. Organic Farming, to me, always represented idealism, purity, and high standards not often found in the market place. It is especially disheartening to see this movement fall victim to special interests.

Sincerely,



PN/do

cc: President William J. Clinton
Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.

May 29, 1998

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PAUL NEWMAN

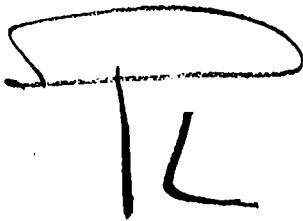
May 7, 1998

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Enclosed is a letter that I sent to the USDA, and I wanted very much to call it directly to your attention. There's something definitely amiss here.

Joanne joins me in sending best personal wishes,



PN/do
Enclosure

Paul Newman sends copy of a letter he sent to USDA concerning the national organic standard. He feels that when the regulations came out, they were soiled and mutilated in intent by special interest groups. It is heartbreaking to see the idealism of the organic movement subverted, especially when they placed their faith in a government they trusted.

*Tom -
Make sure he
gets a good answer,
or your movie
career is history.
BR*

Handwritten note:
K. L. G. (K. L. G.?)
P. O. (P. O.?)
Need a reply

PAUL NEWMAN

April 30, 1998

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Washington, DC 20090-6456

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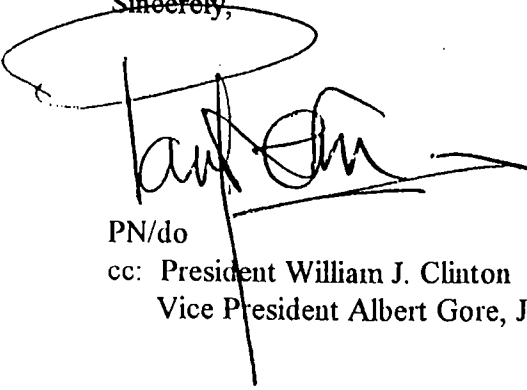
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