



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 18 2011

Ms. Christine Bushway  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Organic Trade Association  
Hall of the States  
444 North Capitol Street, NW., Suite 638  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Bushway:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2010, cosigned by your colleague, Ms. Julia Sabin of Smucker Natural Foods, Inc. You expressed your support of the Organic Food Pilot Program authorized under Section 210 of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act (Act) and asked that we include a request for funds to support the pilot in the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget.

Since the early days of this Administration, it has been a priority to see a strong child nutrition bill signed into law. Passage of this law represents a historic victory for our Nation's youngsters. This legislation will provide USDA with the chance to make reforms to the school lunch and breakfast programs by improving the critical nutrition and hunger safety net for millions of our children. Improved school meals will bring more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to children's plates, benefitting the health of our Nation's children and the American farmer, both organic and non-organic.

I appreciate your suggestion to include \$10 million in funding in USDA's FY 2012 budget request and will take it under advisement as we seek to find a balance between providing nutritious meals to school children and the budgetary constraints facing the Nation.

Again, thank you for the efforts made by your organization to improve the health and nutrition of our children, and I look forward to working with you in the future. A similar letter is being sent to Ms. Julia Sabin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary