

December 3, 2014

A.C. Gallo
President and Chief Operating Officer

Margaret Wittenberg
Global Vice President of Quality Standards

Edmund LaMacchia
Global Vice President of Purchasing, Perishables
Whole Foods Market
550 Bowie Street
Austin, TX 78703-4644

Dear Mr. Gallo, Ms. Wittenberg and Mr. LaMacchia:

We understand that Whole Foods Market has decided to restrict the use of all biosolids for growing produce and flowers sold in its stores under its new Responsibly Grown Produce Rating System. We are disappointed with this decision and hope you will reconsider it. When a company as respected and influential as Whole Foods Market bans or denounces a practice, the public will naturally assume there was good reason to do so. However, there is a decades-long scientific consensus regarding the safety and the environmental and agricultural benefits of using biosolids as a fertilizer. The undersigned individuals are the general managers and executive directors of publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies from across the country, collectively serving more than 16 million people. The primary goal of these agencies is to produce clean and safe water to protect both human and environmental health.

The clean water community has a strong environmental ethic and is a leader in sustainability. For decades, we have created biosolids for use as fertilizer, generated renewable energy through biogas production, and enhanced water conservation efforts through recycled water programs. Biosolids are the nutrient-rich materials resulting from the treatment of domestic wastewater. We support the beneficial use of these biosolids because it is well regulated, is protective of the environment and public health, and provides valuable environmental and agricultural benefits. The benefits of using biosolids – decreased reliance on energy-intensive synthetic fertilizer, healthier and more productive soils, increased carbon storage in soils, reduced erosion, and increased soil water retention – help individual growers and also strengthen our country's crucial agricultural resources. Moreover, biosolids are one of the most powerful tools conventional growers can use to employ climate-friendly growing practices. The use of biosolids not only increases carbon storage in soils, but also offsets the use of energy-intensive synthetic fertilizers.

Our concern is that an official statement from Whole Foods Market restricting the use of biosolids as an acceptable soil amendment will perpetuate misinformation and give credence to fear-based campaigns. Overlooking the decades of scientific study behind the practice of biosolids recycling is a setback to national sustainability efforts. The Responsibly Grown statement on biosolids use ignores the scientific consensus and careful regulatory framework that is already in place. Federal biosolids regulations were conservatively designed to protect

the most vulnerable human populations and environmental organisms. We urge you to carefully consider the facts and research behind biosolids use, compare those with your science-based sustainability principles, and not restrict biosolids use by your non-organic suppliers beyond the existing regulatory requirements that are already in place.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide detailed information about why biosolids recycling is a safe, environmentally responsible practice and hope you are open to further discussion. Please contact Chris Hornback, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) at chornback@nacwa.org or (202) 833-9106 to arrange a meeting.

Additional information on the science of biosolids can be found on these websites: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/owm) and the National Biosolids Partnership (www.biosolids.org). A sampling of testimonials from growers who use biosolids can be viewed at <http://www.loopforyoursoil.com/what-is-loop/galleries/>.

Thank you for consideration of this important national issue.

Sincerely,



Julius Ciaccia
Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH



Pam Elardo, P.E.
Division Director
King County Wastewater Treatment Division
Seattle, WA



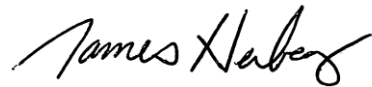
Bill Gaffi
General Manager
Clean Water Services
Hillsboro, OR

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George Hawkins
General Manager
DC Water
Washington, DC



James D. Herberg
General Manager
Orange County Sanitation District
Fountain Valley, CA



Steve Hershner
Utilities Director
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA



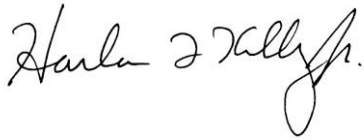
Grace R. Hyde
Chief Engineer and General Manager
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Whittier, CA



Lori M. K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director
Department of Environmental Services
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI

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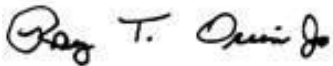
Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
General Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco, CA



Sue F. McCormick
Director
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
Detroit, MI



Leland Myers
General Manager
Central Davis Sewer District
Farmington, UT



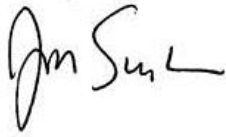
Ray T. Orvin Jr., DBA
Executive Director
Renewable Water Resources
Greenville, SC



Karen Pallansch
Chief Executive Officer
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Alexandria, VA

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Sartor".

Michael Sartor
Director of Public Works
City of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom D. Wiedmeier".

Tom D. Wiedmeier, P.E.
Director
Augusta Utilities
Augusta, Georgia