



CCOF

Organic Certification

Education & Outreach

Political Advocacy

Promotion

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) extends our warmest congratulations on your recent confirmation as the Secretary of Agriculture.

CCOF advances organic agriculture for a healthy world through organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion. We advocate on behalf of our members for organic policies, support the work of our members through technical training and educational and hardship assistance grants, and provide organic certification that is personal and accessible.

CCOF is a nonprofit organization governed by the people who grow and make our food. Founded in California more than 40 years ago, today our roots span the breadth of North America and our presence is internationally recognized. We are supported by an organic family of farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers, consumers, and policymakers. Together, we work to advance organic agriculture for a healthy world.

Under your leadership, we can leverage the economic benefits of organic agriculture to stimulate job growth and improve rural economies. Studies show counties with high levels of organic activity have, on average, lower poverty rates and higher median household incomes. And the Organic Trade Association estimates the organic sector supports nearly one million jobs nationwide. With double-digit growth in organic sales, consumers have clearly demonstrated the value of USDA certified organic. We look forward to working together to ensuring domestic organic production meets the strong growth in demand for organic products.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information or resources on organic production.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Calfo".

Cathy Calfo
Executive Director/CEO