

February 12, 2026

Hon. Dudley Hoskins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Under Secretary Hoskins,

The signatories below urge USDA to publish an interim final rule pursuant to Biodegradable Products Institute's (BPI) August 2023 Petition for Rulemaking on compost.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) concluded its consultation on this topic at its January 13-14, 2026 meeting. This prompts USDA to review the statute highlighted in BPI's petition, where Congress recognized compost as the result of a naturally occurring biological process, and propose a path forward.

Publishing an interim final rule in the Federal Register is the preferred action because it will allow for a public comment period beyond the NOSB and create a robust administrative record, which is particularly important for a topic that has far reaching implications and impact. American farmers and ranchers not only produce food that needs to be packaged and transported, they also grow inputs for making bioplastics and fiber that go into compostable products and packaging.

We ask that USDA take action to stop the disruption created by California laws with unreasonable timelines, and outdated federal definitions of compost that negatively impact American businesses and agricultural interests in the bioeconomy, including cities that rely on compostable products for their composting programs. Current laws undermine the ability for companies to invest in the production of certified compostable products and food packaging, which is counter to USDA's long history of supporting innovative American-made biomaterials that help keep US farmers and food distributors competitive internationally. This national leadership is needed now more than ever to provide market certainty for the US supply chain.

Not only will rulemaking on this topic support and expand markets for America's farmers and ranchers, it will also promote national security by reducing dependence on foreign inputs and will remove burdensome regulatory barriers to domestic manufacturing. Following NOSB's guidance would require hundreds of National List petitions to be filed, leading to an excessive, expensive, and untenable situation reviewing ingredients in compostable products, even though they meet the ASTM compostability standards that are already in federal organic regulations (7 C.F.R. §205.2).

Without prompt leadership from this administration, ongoing harm will be unavoidable. Thank you for your consideration.

Associations and Government



Producers and Product Manufacturers



Composters and Haulers



Other

