



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

AUG 11 2015

Dr. Urvashi Rangan  
Executive Director  
Food Safety Sustainability Center  
Consumers Union/Consumer Reports  
101 Truman Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10703

Dear Dr. Rangan:

Thank you for your letter of June 24, 2015, regarding antibiotic use in eggs and day-old poultry destined for use in certified organic production. We appreciate your support of clear and enforceable organic standards that meet consumer expectations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is committed to protecting the integrity of the organic label by setting and enforcing meaningful standards.

In your letter, you asked to have the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) consider a recommendation to prohibit certain management practices for day-old chicks destined for management in certified organic flocks. The National Organic Program will be requesting that the NOSB provide a recommendation on management practices for day-old chicks.

Thank you again for writing and for your interest in securing consumer confidence in certified organic products. A similar letter has been sent to Ms. Simpson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary