



August 17, 2018

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

We the organizations of PASA, Rodale Institute and PCO express our gratitude for your vision to make Pennsylvania the nation's leading organic state. Your intention to leverage our strong reputation in the marketplace is laudable and a testament to your commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture.

Your goal to "raise public awareness among agricultural producers of the opportunities in organic production—both unmet market demand and the premium prices organic commodities command in the market" sets us apart from nearly every other state in the nation in terms of strategic direction being guided by the realities of today's organic consumer market. Additionally, your emphasis on organic feed grains cannot be underestimated in both its reflection of a serious need for Pennsylvania livestock and poultry farmers, as well as in its ability to open up a nearly untapped market for our grain farmers.

We are eager to see how the PA Preferred™ program can support this initiative and provide verification for consumers that the organic product is being sourced from Pennsylvania. Please let us know if we can be helpful in this or any other third party verification efforts.

We look forward to hearing more about the support that will be available in the areas of research, organic transition, verification standards, processing infrastructure, and marketing, and we stand at the ready to support your efforts in any way we can, including by serving on an advisory council for this tremendous undertaking.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your acknowledgement of this growing market and for your vision for all of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Smith-Brubaker".

Hannah Smith-Brubaker
Executive Director, PASA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Moyer".

Jeff Moyer
Executive Director, Rodale Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Zuck".

Leslie Zuck
Executive Director, PCO

cc: Russell Redding, PA Agriculture Secretary

PASA is a Pennsylvania-based sustainable agriculture association working to build a more economically-just, environmentally-regenerative, and community-focused food system through education and research that directly supports farmers.

We coordinate year-round workshops and events, administer formal farming apprenticeships, and facilitate research that empowers farmers with data they value. We also work to foster productive connections between farmers, community members, local businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Our annual sustainable agriculture conference draws thousands of people from all sectors of the food system for four days of intensive learning on a wide range of food and farming topics.

Learn more at pasafarming.org.

PCO is dedicated to seeing communities enriched through organic food and farming. As a nonprofit and a USDA-accredited organic certifying agency, we certify more than 1,500 growers, processors and handlers of organic crops, wild crops, livestock and livestock products. With a team of approximately 75 staff and inspectors, PCO is committed to our mission to ensure the integrity of organic products.

Learn more at paorganic.org.

Rodale Institute is dedicated to pioneering organic farming through research and outreach. For more than seventy years, the Institute has been putting science behind best practices in organic agriculture and sharing its findings with farmers and scientists throughout the world, advocating for policies that support farmers, and educating consumers about how going organic is the healthiest option for people and the planet.

Learn more at RodaleInstitute.org.