

## **Support for Senator Baldwin's *Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act***

“The National Organic Coalition recognizes the urgent need to modernize and strengthen USDA oversight of organic products to prevent fraud and make sure that everyone in the supply chain is playing by the same rules. We appreciate Senator Baldwin’s strong leadership on this issue by introducing the Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act,” said Abby Youngblood, Executive Director of the National Organic Coalition. “This bill will provide the USDA’s National Organic Program with additional authorities and resources to crack down on fraudulent organic imports. The bill is critical to both farmers, especially those who are being harmed by fraudulent imports, as well as consumers, whose trust in the organic seal depends on effective enforcement of clear and consistent standards across the board.” **Abby Youngblood, Executive Director, National Organic Coalition**

“For organic to advance, it is critical that we protect organic’s integrity. We applaud Senator Baldwin for introducing this important bill. Our farmers deserve to have a level playing field, and organic consumers deserve to be able to trust that they are getting what they pay for when they buy organic. Today’s organic industry operates in a growing global market. We have to modernize and get up to speed to prevent organic fraud and to ensure that every stakeholder in the organic chain is playing by the rules, and this bill takes important steps towards making that happen.” **Laura Batcha, Executive Director and CEO, Organic Trade Association**

“Organic Valley is glad to see Senator Baldwin champion this piece of legislation. It is smart policy that will allow USDA to be more effective in investigating, tracking, and executing enforcement against those who might try and cheat the US organic regulations. Organic agriculture is important to Wisconsin’s state economy and this legislation helps respond to threats that could compromise the integrity of organic. Consumers trust organic and that is a trust we have built over the years. Any risks to that covenant we take seriously at Organic Valley. This is good legislation and timely as organic production and consumption continues to grow worldwide.” **Melissa Hughes, Organic Valley Chief Mission Officer/ General Counsel.**

“As an organic grain farmer I applaud Senator Baldwin for introducing the Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act which improves international organic trade oversight,” **said Sandy Syburg, Organic Valley Grower Pool Member from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.** “Organics has grown to be global in scope and, with that growth, we need to update both the authority and resources of the National Organic Program to better track and bring enforcement on any suspected fraud in the international arena. Ensuring organic integrity is key to my livelihood and key to the relationship we in organic agriculture have with consumers. The USDA organic seal means real standards, and real consequences, if you don’t follow the regulations. This Act improves that reality.”

## **Supporters of the *Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act***

Organic Trade Association (OTA)  
National Organic Coalition (NOC)  
Organic Valley  
Organic Farmers Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM)  
Alliance for Natural Health USA  
Beyond Pesticides  
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
Equal Exchange  
California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)  
Center for Nutrition Advocacy  
Food & Water Watch  
Friends of the Earth  
Kanalani Ohana Farm  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Michigan Organic Food & Farm Alliance  
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)  
Midwest Organic Dairy Farmers Alliance (MODPA)  
National Co+op Grocers (NCG)  
Northeast Organic Dairy Farmers Alliance (NODPA)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association- Interstate Council  
Northeast Organic Farming Association- Massachusetts  
Northeast Organic Farming Association- New York  
Northeast Organic Farming Association- Vermont  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA)  
Organic Farmers Association  
Organic Seed Alliance  
PCC Community Markets- Seattle  
Rural Advancement Foundation International- USA  
Wild Farm Alliance