



November 30, 2022

**NORTHEAST ORGANIC
FARMING ASSOCIATION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Dear Executive Councilors Joseph D. Kenney, Cinde Warmington, Janet Stevens, Theodore J. Gatsas, and David K. Wheeler,

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization representing over 400 members. Our mission is to actively promote organic, regenerative, ecologically sound farming, gardening, eating, and land care practices for healthy communities. We help people build local, just, and sustainable food systems.

NOFA-NH would like to acknowledge our appreciation for Commissioner Jasper's work on a number of significant recent projects and initiatives, and to emphasize that we are committed to working constructively with Commissioner Jasper — or whomever is appointed Commissioner for the next five years.

We do not, however, as an institution, recommend his reappointment at this time. We think it would be in the best interests of the citizens of New Hampshire and the organic growing community for new leadership to take the helm. We believe that the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food (NHDAMF) needs to be guided by a commissioner who recognizes that the survival of New Hampshire's small farms is critical to the state's food security, that the challenges faced by the many small farms of New Hampshire should be addressed proactively, and that organic growing has a real and important place in our agricultural landscape. We would like to see a commissioner who recognizes the economic and social benefits that small scale, job-rich, organic growing and processing can provide to communities, public health, ecosystem preservation, and climate change mitigation. We would welcome a commissioner who would work to help more farmers transition to such sustainable, less toxic, and more affordable means of production, and who would be committed to improving the state's Organic Certification program. We would like to see a Commissioner and a NHDAMF that will champion the benefits of redirecting federal funds, already flowing into the state, towards the purchase of local foods for local people - both for those facing food insecurity and the children attending New Hampshire's schools. We seek a visionary Commissioner who will fight to secure more funding for the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food so that it can work even more effectively to support local production, weave partnerships, create infrastructure, and generally build public support for local food grown in ecologically sound and regenerative ways.

The resilience of New Hampshire's food supply, the vitality of its rural communities, the health of its citizens, and the integrity of our state's waters, beautiful landscapes, and biodiversity will all be affected by actions stemming from the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food. Like you, we take these matters very seriously, and we thank you for your attention to such concerns.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors of NOFA-NH

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to building a community of organic food activists and educated consumers to help support New Hampshire's local organic farming community.