



## Alert: Whole Foods Threatens to Sue OCA - Please Sign Our Petition

Whole Foods sent a letter dated August 26, 2009, signed by one of its attorneys, threatening to sue the OCA, under the pretense that a petition we've been circulating violates Whole Foods' "intellectual property rights."

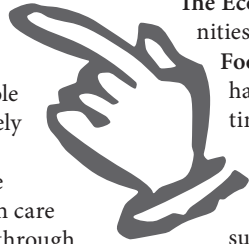
**Here's OCA's response to CEO John Mackey:** "Given all the bad publicity that you've gotten lately for admitting that Whole Foods Market (WFM) retail stores are purveyors of 'junk food,' that WFM needs to sell a lot more certified organic products (rather than conventional items greenwashed as 'natural'); that WFM's '365' private label products need to be thoroughly tested for GMO contamination; that you don't think all Americans deserve government subsidized access to health care; or need labor unions; perhaps you may want to reconsider suing the largest organic consumer watchdog organization in the United States..."

Read the full text: [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19057.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19057.cfm)

Please help put the pressure on Whole Foods and Whole Foods' main distributor, United Natural Foods Incorporated (UNFI), to:

- ▶ Stop prioritizing sales of conventional foods & products (green-washed as "natural") and instead double WFM and UNFI's sales of certified organics from 1/3 to 2/3 of their total sales. This would increase US organic sales by approximately \$3 billion annually.
- ▶ Give smaller retailers and coops that seriously promote organics (more than 1/3 of sales organic) the same UNFI discount that Whole Foods receives.
- ▶ Apply Domestic Fair Trade principles to the UNFI and Whole Foods supply chains by guaranteeing workers' rights to freely organize themselves into unions for collective bargaining.
- ▶ Support health care reform to provide universal health care coverage while reducing costs, relieving employers of health care responsibilities, and encouraging wellness and prevention through nutrition and complementary natural medicine.

Sign the petition: [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_18793.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18793.cfm)



## The "Terminator" Vetoes Farm Workers' Rights

On September 2, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB789, the California Employee Free Choice Act for Farm Workers. Here's the United Farm Workers response: "The governor has no idea what it is like to work in the fields as a farm worker. His decision to veto SB789 emphasizes the deep disconnection between his words and the reality that hundreds of thousands of farm workers have to endure every day while harvesting the fruits and vegetables that feed America. The governor says that he knows that farm workers are subjected to sexual harassment, heat illness, abuses and intimidation at the workplace. He has acknowledged this problem and promised to change the situation. Yet, again and again, he has failed to protect farm workers." [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19069.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19069.cfm)

## Swine Flu Online Forum Discussion, Free DVD!

We've created an online discussion forum for the latest news on the swine flu, the swine flu vaccine, government action and alternative therapies, including an immune-boosting diet of healthy organic food and herbal supplements: [organicconsumers.org/forum/index.php?showtopic=3116](http://organicconsumers.org/forum/index.php?showtopic=3116)

We're also proud to pass on a great offer from the Humane Society's Factory Farming Campaign! Thanks to The Sheepdrove Trust, subscribers to this newsletter can get a free copy of the new DVD *Flu Factories: Tracing the Origins of the Swine Flu Pandemic* by mailing a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below. The envelope should be at least 6 in. wide, stamped with at least \$1.39 in postage for domestic mail (\$2.28 international). Make it out to: Michael Greger, MD., Director Public Health and Animal Agriculture Humane Society International 2100 L St., NW Washington, DC 20037 [www.hsus.org/farm/resources/pubs/swine\\_flu.html](http://www.hsus.org/farm/resources/pubs/swine_flu.html)

## Quote of the Week

"Progressives don't just 'believe' they deserve a seat at the table—we actually do deserve that seat, not just because we worked to elect this president, but because our stance on major issues like the public option, climate change, Wall Street reform and the war are the majoritarian positions in America. That's not speculation—polls show that's an empirical fact. But we won't get that seat at the table unless we demand it. That means the Washington-based progressive groups have to stop kissing the White House's ass and selling out their grassroots membership."

-David Sirota, author of bestselling book, *The Uprising*

## Study Says Organic is Healthier

A new report by the French Agency for Food Safety has found that organic foods are healthier and contain less pesticides and nitrates, which have been linked to a range of health problems including diabetes and Alzheimer's. Organic plant products are more nutrient dense, have higher levels of minerals, and contain more antioxidants. Organic animal products contain more polyunsaturated fatty acids. [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19023.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19023.cfm)

## Little Bytes

**The Economics of Local Food:** Local food keeps money in local communities and helps create jobs, which in turn can help reduce crime.

**Food is Power and the Powerful are Poisoning Us:** Food shortages have been tinder for social upheaval throughout history. But this time around, because many of us have lost the skills to feed and clothe ourselves, it will be much harder to become self-sustaining.

**Food Treasures of the Wild in Peril:** Remote tribes in dense tropical forests or frozen polar wastes are keepers of a vast treasure house of healthful, nutritious foods—many with extraordinary properties—that more affluent societies can only envy.

Read these articles & many more: [www.organicconsumers.org](http://www.organicconsumers.org)

## News from our Campaigns

Since 2006, OCA and our Washington, DC sister organization, the **Organic Consumers Fund**, have been working under the **Planting Peace** and **Grassroots Netroots Alliance** banners to build a network of socially responsible activists who wish to put an end to military madness, and green the global economy. While continuing to focus on making organics and green commerce the dominant pillars of the economy, we are addressing the inter-related issues of health, justice, sustainability, peace, and democracy through a multi-issue platform. There is no way we're going to have a healthy, organic future without fundamental cultural transformation and political change. With this goal in mind, we bring you the following news:

**Health:** Rep. Weiner tackles the real inefficiency in the current health care system, namely, the dominance of profit-obsessed private insurance companies. [grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article\\_19066.cfm](http://grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article_19066.cfm)

**Justice:** *Free Speech Radio News* brings us a special Labor Day documentary, *Sixteen Rooms: The Campaign for a Hotel Workers Union*: [grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article\\_19067.cfm](http://grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article_19067.cfm)

**Sustainability:** *French Fries to Go* documents Telluride's quest to run city buses on recycled fryer oil. [grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article\\_19064.cfm](http://grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article_19064.cfm)

**Peace:** Clinton State Department fires eight at US Embassy in Afghanistan involved in Animal House-style drunken hazing and sexual misconduct, but makes no move to cancel Wackenhut's \$189 million contract for the 450 guards. [grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article\\_19065.cfm](http://grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article_19065.cfm)

**Democracy:** Possibly the best, and certainly the most professionally produced 9/11 video documentary is the moving story 9/11: *Press For Truth*. [grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article\\_19068.cfm](http://grassrootsnetroots.org/articles/article_19068.cfm)