

Organic industry fears Republicans are targeting National Organic Program

Back in December [2016], the Freedom Caucus [a group of US House Republicans] released a [“recommended list of regulations to remove.”](#) Among its 228 targets ... the group named the National Organic Program.

[T]he [NOP](#) was established by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to set uniform national standards for foods and agricultural products labeled “USDA Organic,” replacing the patchwork of state-level standards that had held sway for decades previously. The NOP ensures that food labeled organic really is raised without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.... [D]ismantling the NOP would generate massive chaos in the food market. A federally enforced, uniform, and fairly stringent set of rules would give way to a hodgepodge, leaving consumers flummoxed about what “organic” means.

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Kathleen Merrigan, who served a long stint as deputy USDA secretary under Obama, has sounded the alarm.

According to a *Politico* [account](#) of her remarks at a [February 2017] food conference, Merrigan warned that “forces of darkness” are “coming together and saying, ‘Let’s sharpen our knives on organic.’”

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Does the Freedom Caucus really want to nix the [NOP] to save \$9 million per year? The \$39.7 billion organic-food industry ... would likely push back pretty hard.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [“Dark Forces” Are Coming for Your Organic Food](#)