

I'm Linley Dixon, a Ph.D. scientist at Cornucopia. A few years ago I abandoned my USDA research latex gloves for farming gloves to produce vegetables in Colorado.

I had a fact-crammed speech for you, but after yesterday I was uninspired. So I figured I'd tell you to please read our well-researched written comments and instead, **unlike** *some others* that came before me, tell you about who is paying me to be here. The answer is thousands of organic farmers around the country who believe the well-conceived organic standards are being interpreted wrong. They're frustrated that monoculture is certified, that organic poultry isn't going outside, that organic cows aren't getting enough pasture, that hydroponic systems are now called container systems and certified. They're frustrated that the lights have gone out in the barns in their communities. *And they see us as the people that are fighting for their economic justice and can help turn those lights back on!*

A few of these farmers *were* here to remind you what organic farming really is. But most of them tell me to "go get 'em," so they can keep farming. They pat me on the back and tell me to "give hell to the folks that are ruining their label."

Just as hydroponic folks should be proud to label their products hydroponic, I'm proud of who I represent.

Cornucopia's farmer members, our board, and our policy advisors are organic farmers inspiring the next generation to farm sustainably... to follow their example in working toward a locally based, *truly* sustainable food system that is labeled organic. This is what consumers are looking for.

I've also found the language used in this room to be intentionally misleading. "United 4 Food Science" is the carrageenan lobby. *They* are the reason why the science isn't **united** on this one. I'm submitting over 40,000 signatures from people asking for carrageenan to be removed from food. Don't belittle their intelligence by thinking they blindly take Cornucopia's word on social media. They look at the published studies and decide for themselves.

Back to misleading language, container systems using inert media like coco coir and peat moss have always been described in the scientific literature, and by the growers themselves, as hydroponic. But now, suddenly these container systems *aren't* hydroponic systems any more – they're "sustainable" systems. The "Coalition for Sustainable Organics" is mostly the big hydroponic container growers that distribute produce from the desert to the entire country.

Contrast that with our farm's low-input high tunnels that are also in the arid southwest. We grow on a scale that provides for our family and helps feed our community. True sustainability includes the techniques that we've come up with as farmers and those that have been passed down to us from our farmer heroes – developed with truly sustainable morals. That's real organic farming – continuing to strive for perfection, not only doing what's most profitable. And that's what will grow organics, inspiring that next generation of farmers who *will* turn the lights back on in the barns of their communities because they're inspired by the wisdom that came before them.