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October 3, 2012

Oregon Tilth and CCOF Suspend Restructuring Plans

Dear Oregon Tilth Member and/or Certified Operator,

Oregon Tilth and CCOF, two of the nation's oldest organic certification, advocacy and educational organizations, have suspended plans to join forces. Plans for the two organizations to restructure were announced last May.

The boards of directors of Oregon Tilth and CCOF proposed the restructuring of the two organizations to offer quality certification services at competitive prices, strengthen the collective organic voice, and provide increased support for research and education programs.

On Saturday, September 29, at Oregon Tilth's membership meeting in Portland, Oregon, a proposal to rename Oregon Tilth as CCOF Tilth Foundation, revise bylaws, and transfer ownership of the certification program, was presented to the membership. On October 3, 2012, Moss Adams LLP, the independent CPA firm hired to perform the voting procedure and ballot count, released the verified voting results. While a majority of members (61%) voted in favor of the proposal, it failed to achieve the two-thirds vote necessary for passage.

We are disappointed that plans proposed by our board of directors to strengthen and expand programs were not endorsed by the required two-thirds majority. However, our organization is resilient and we will continue to do the important work that we have been doing for more than 25 years.

Oregon Tilth and CCOF developed a strong bond through the process that unfolded during the past year. We will continue to work together to grow the organic movement as separate organizations.

Rest assured, Oregon Tilth will continue to work hard and innovate, always striving to offer leadership and premiere services to our clients and the organic community. Our accreditations remain intact, our expert staff is in place to deliver quality services and our commitment to integrity is steadfast. Together with our members and certified clients, Oregon Tilth will continue to be a force for positive change in the food system.

Thank you for your continued support,

Chris Schreiner
Executive Director
Oregon Tilth