



National Organic Coalition

March 8, 2010

The numbers in our Press Release (over 200,000) come from 5 organizations (Center for Food Safety, Food and Water Watch, Organic Consumers Association, CREDO Action Fund, and Food Democracy Now) that had portals for individuals to write their comments and send them in from the organization web site to "regulations.gov" -- the federal website for commenting. We did this because in the past, the USDA's count has been significantly under what we knew was there.

In addition, on the "regulations.gov" website they do note that it may take awhile for all the comments to be counted, so if the comments from these 5 organizations, totaling over 200,000 were sent in on the last day, then "Regulations.gov" may not even be showing them yet.

FROM THE REGULATIONS.GOV WEBSITE:

"Once your comment is received, the appropriate agency must process it before it is posted to Regulations.gov. Given the fact that certain regulations may have thousands of comments, processing may take several weeks before it may be viewed online." [underline added]

We will be attempting to verify final numbers, but we already know that the 200,000 does not include those that were directly submitted to Regulations.gov, as well as at least one other organizational portal that was not a part of our count.

Stay Tuned!

Liana Hoodes, Director